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JANUARY 18, 2001 [53.19]

Martlet

MENTAL ILLNESS

out there the lines are simple

one student's experience, page 10

illustrations by david low

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Shooting for the Stars

Private donation opens a world of opportunity to UVic Astronomy students

by Kevin Groves

Traveling to the far reaches of the universe just became a little easier for UVic astronomy students.

Last month John Criswick, a Victoria-raised software developer with an interest in astronomy, gave a further $192,000 in stock options and cash to the UVic Astronomy and Astrophysics Group (AAG). This adds to Criswick's earlier gift of $80,000 bringing his total donation to $272,000.

The second donation, announced at a pre-Christmas news conference, is the largest private donation ever to the department and they say it represents a tremendous opportunity for UVic students.

"There is often a mistaken perception that research funds are for the professor's own work," says Dr. Arif Babul, a cosmologist who tests theories about the origins of structure in the universe and the evolution of galaxies. "In reality, funds that enhance the astronomy group's ability to carry out top-notch research has a direct impact on the students.

"The students will now have opportunities to get involved in cutting edge research, which increases their future prospects, especially that of getting into grad school."

Much of the work being done by students in the department centres around computer generated simulations that trace the evolution of the universe over the last 15 billion years.

Understanding how galaxies evolved is considered the next major challenge for scientists who study the creation and development of the universe.

The students will now have opportunities to get involved in cutting-edge research, which increases their future prospects, especially that of getting into grad school.

Dr. Arif Babul

The AAG used Criswick's earlier gift of $80,000 to set up two bursaries of $1,000 each and provide vital travel subsidies that allow UVic to send more graduate and undergraduate students to academic conferences.

The chance at a postdoctoral position increases if candidates have had a chance to interact with established experts at conferences prior to application. According to Babul, Criswick's donation will give UVic students the opportunity to partake in some of the biggest conferences, including the one put on by the Canadian Astronomical Society, which supports committees on optical-infrared astronomy, radio astronomy, and space astronomy.

Greg Poole, a PhD student in astronomy at UVic, says he cannot overemphasize the importance of the travel subsidies that allow students to travel to academic conferences and share their findings on the universe with others.

"The money's a very great thing for us, it gives us a chance to get out and interact with the academic community."

Last year, UVic astronomy grad student James Taylor gave a presentation at the annual meeting of Canadian Astronomers after receiving one of Criswick's travel subsidies. Taylor has at least one firm offer as a result of his success at academic conferences.

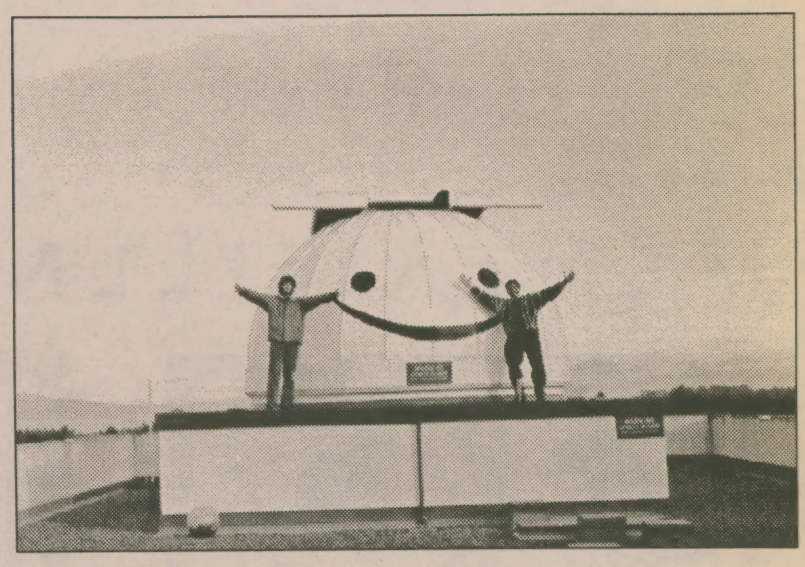
"I got several invitations to apply for postdoctoral research positions as a result of my talk at the Canadian Astronomical Society (CASCA) conference," says Taylor. "I am tremendously grateful to Mr. Criswick for the funds that allowed me to attend."

Criswick's second donation will also put pressure on the federal government to fund research in astronomy.

"The goal is to get Ottawa to match what we received from Mr. Criswick," says Poole.

Should federal funds be secured, the creation of the National Institute for Cosmological Science at UVic will be one step closer to a reality, which should combat "brain drain" by providing a place for the best Canadian astronomers to work at in Canada. For Poole this is welcome news.

"I definitely want to stay in Canada if I can."



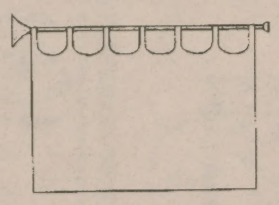
Dr. Arif Babul and Dr. Julio Navarro stand on top of UVic's observatory. They say a recent donation will bring their astronomy research to new heights.

photo by Sheldon Etheridge

U.V.S.S. & G.S.S. Members

IT IS TIME TO GET INVOLVED

Call for nominations to UVic's Senate and Board of Governors



Elections to the Senate

Sixteen (16) **FULL TIME STUDENTS**
(including at least one student from each Faculty—1 year term)
One (1) **PART TIME STUDENT** (3 year term)

Elections to the Board of Governors

Two (2) **FULL TIME STUDENTS** (1 year term)

Nominations close 07 February 2001

Nomination papers must be signed by no fewer than three students eligible to vote, other than the candidate, and by the candidate. Nomination forms are available in Room 410, Business and Economics Building or from the Student Resource Centre, Room 103, in the Student Union Building on and after 18 January 2001.

A nomination paper is not valid unless it is received in Room 410, Business & Economics Building, University of Victoria, not later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, 07 February 2001.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2001,
Office of the University Secretary

Sheila Sheldon Collyer,
University Secretary

on the spot

by Richard Warrington

Are you in favour of legalizing gay marriages? Why or why not?

Michelle Bourne
4th year Fine Arts

Yes. I don't think that happiness should be prescribed to gender.

Randy Williams
4th year Earth & Ocean Sciences

Yes. If someone is gay, they are gay. No amount of convincing, societal pressure, etc., is going to change that. So if folks enjoy each other's company, they might as well get married. After all it's only a legal term.

Julia Mathis
4th year Humanities

Yes. Homosexual couples should be able to get sucked in by an adolescent fantasy too.

Should Victoria provide safe-injection sites?

by Chris Westendorf

Should Victoria follow the lead of several European countries and provide safe-injection sites for people addicted to hard drugs?

The city of Vancouver recently toyed with the idea, and some Victorians are wondering whether it's time to reject the war on drugs and move toward a harm-reduction model.

Rob Fleming, a former chairperson of the University of Victoria Students' Society who now serves on Victoria city council, says he supports the idea of safe injection sites.

"There are two approaches: criminalization or harm reduction and rehabilitation. The latter is the way to go," Fleming told *the Martlet*.

One of his colleagues in city hall is less sure.

"I think we need to see what happens in Vancouver first," councillor Pamela Madoff said. "This will be a first for Canada."

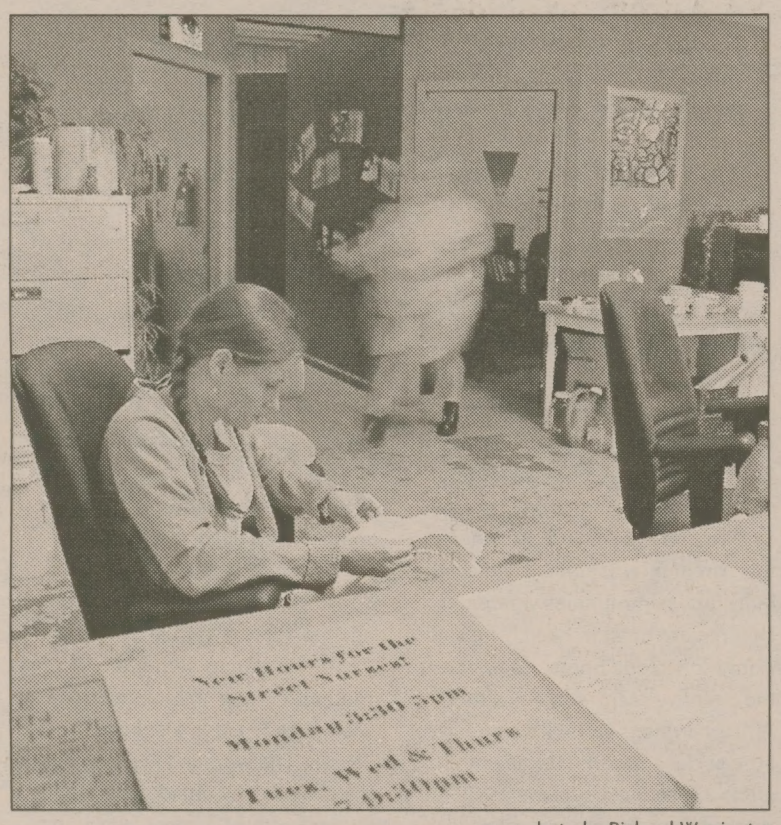


photo by Richard Warrington

Victoria's Street Outreach Services is the best spot in town for drug users to exchange needles and get the help they need.

Once a local neighbourhood gets over their fear, it's all right.

Brian Oswald, outreach worker

Late last year, Vancouver mayor Phillip Owen announced the city was considering establishing safe-injection sites.

Given the high-incidence of drug abuse in East Vancouver, the city believed these safe places could help to address some of the more practical problems of drug use within the community. Users can be monitored in the event of an overdose, and they are provided a safe, sanitary environment with clean needles and health care workers on hand. This in turn may prevent the spread of HIV and other diseases.

European countries such as the Netherlands and Germany have pioneered such initiatives, with great success.

Brian Oswald, an outreach worker with AIDS Vancouver Island in the Fernwood community, thinks Victoria should establish safe-injection sites of its own.

"When you don't have people shooting on the street, it reduces the risk of HIV and Hepatitis C," Oswald said. "It increases the access to health care and treatment options. Once a local neighbourhood gets over their fear, it's all right."

Although heroin use is illegal in Canada, and some drug users receive attention from the police, courts, and prison system, Oswald argues these resources are misdirected. He thinks that simply ignoring the medical aspect of drug use is not a feasible option.

The police in Victoria are actually preventing proper treatment of users, Oswald said, and he thinks their policies must change if safe-injection sites are established.

"If police leave it alone, people will go there. But let's see them do it. Sometimes we have detectives out here looking for people, wanting us to give them information on our clients," Oswald said.

AIDS Vancouver Island operates a needle exchange program for drug users out of their Fernwood office. Oswald would like see the local police force take a more proactive approach to drug use, and stop harassing those who frequent the needle exchange.

We can't just sweep it under the carpet. Junkies or not, they need a safe place. It's better than the street.

Paul Mickelson, UVic student

The idea of safe-injection sites received a favourable response at UVic.

"It's a good idea," said Paul Mickelson, a fourth-year mathematics major. "We can't just sweep it under the carpet. Junkies or not, they need a safe place. It's better than the street."

Transit fares frozen

by Angela Hill

While the cost of a monthly bus pass will go up by $5 in April, the BC Transit Commission has decided against a general fare hike.

After six long months of deliberations, the B.C. Transit Commission , comprised of six municipal politicians, decided Dec.12 to make up for a $3-million budget shortfall through increased property taxes rather than broad fare increases.

"It was a fairly drawn out consultation, with lots of public input through written replies and e-mail," said Rob Fleming, a former chairperson of the UVSS and current Victoria city councilor.

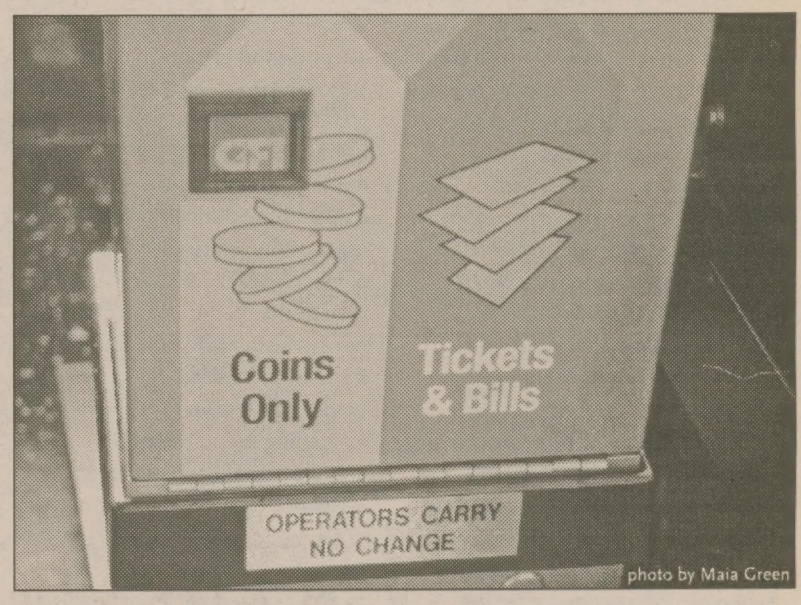


photo by Maia Green

At a hearing in late November, Fleming said 75 members of the public were in attendance, and voiced strong support for tax-based public transit funding.

The municipal politicians who sit on the transit commission are the mayors of Victoria, Saanich, North Saanich, the Western Communities, while the mayors of Esquimalt and Oak Bay share a seat on the commission. Two provincial appointees, Fleming and another Victoria councilor, as well as Judy Brownoff, Victoria Regional chair and Saanich councillor, round out the transit body, which oversees fares and services for transit operations in greater Victoria.

The commission decided to freeze all fares, with exception of the adult monthly bus pass, until March, 2002. A referendum this spring at UVic and Camosun College may see the cost for the mandatory U-Pass increase from $44 per semester to $46.

The commission's decision appears to reflect demand's from the community that fares remain stable or even be reduced in order to help alleviate poverty, clean up the environment, and provide easier mobility for residents in the city.

Transit ridership in greater Victoria has increased by three per cent annually. But since 1997, "field bills have increased 40 per cent," says Chris Foord, marketing and communications manager for BC Transit. "Transportation is not cheap, and even with increased ridership – 70,000 people daily – for every $2 spent on transit we lose $1 to taxes."

What does all this mean? The cost of a monthly adult bus pass, originally slated to increase by $8 to $58, will see a smaller increase of $5 per month effective April 1. And pending a referendum in March, the U-Pass levy may increase by $2 per semester.

But the cost of a single transit fare, which was expected to increase from $1.75 to $2.00, will remain stable. The demand for greater accessibility, and a reduction in fares, has been put on hold for the time being.

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Bring proof of comparable coverage with your Student I.D. Acceptable proof consists of one of the following:

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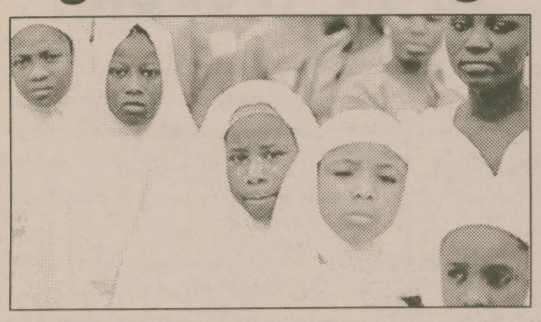
Nigerian human rights lawyers succeed in protecting Bariya Magazu – for now



Bariya is doing fine health wise, but for all the ongoing stress and attention you can only guess.
Nigerian legal officer Dorothy Amah

by Gillian Jerome

Victoria human rights activists are happy to hear that Bariya Ibrahim Magazu may never receive 100 cane lashes for pregancy out of wedlock, after an Islamic court ruled to postpone her sentence indefinitely.

A Nigerian Muslim sharia court judge in the Northern state of Zamfar sentenced Magazu to a public flogging with 180 cane lashes in September after her father pressured her to have sex with three men. The sentence was later reduced to 100 lashes. She gave birth to a baby girl four weeks ago.

Petitions and letters from hundreds of human rights groups and ordinary citizens had a huge impact on the suspension, says Johnny Yakubu, senior communications officer for the Nigerian high commission in Ottawa.

The case provoked international media attention after Magazu (who may be as young as 13-years-old) was tried under Islamic civil code without a lawyer. The teenager's sentence was stiffened after the courts decided she falsely accused three possible fathers, all of whom were released without DNA blood testing or having to swear on the Koran. (The married men could have been found guilty for adultery and stoned to death according to the sharia.)

Magazu was first sentenced to 100 lashes to be carried out 40 days after the birth of the baby, and handed another 80 lashes for qadhf (false accusation of fornication) when the court decided that there was insufficient evidence to identify the men she named as possible fathers of her baby.

"Bariya is doing fine health wise but for all the ongoing stress and attention you can only guess," Dorothy Amah, legal officer with HURI-LAWS, said in a statement from Nigeria. HURI-LAWS is a human rights law service whose lawyers have publicly urged Nigeria's federal court to rule on the constitutionality of sharia, used in nine of the predominantly Muslim northern states. Sharia is the ethical framework for Muslims, a tough penal code known for sentences such as stoning for adultery and amputation of hands for theft.

Its practice includes fasting, prayers and a severe legal code ruling against prostitution, gambling, alcohol, non-same sex schools and extra marital affairs.

Dr. Philip Cook, director of the UVic-based International Institute for Children's Rights and Development, says that this kind of abuse happens all the time but goes unnoticed by Western media.

Cook spent last week in Ottawa working on the Canadian International Development Agency's new child protection strategy, in preparation for the upcoming UN General Assembly's Special Session on the Rights of the Child.

"We don't live in a world where the arm of international law reaches individual communities where the children are most in need," he said from his Victoria home. Cook spent the past five years working with African orphans with HIV who have little social support. He called the Ottawa meeting a success as CIDA marked $120 million toward child protection work by international NGOs.

The money will fund organizations like Nigeria's BAOBAB, the only group with the Magazu family's consent to take the case to court. The group provided male lawyers to argue that her sentence violates Nigeria's constitution. (Representation in the sharia court is open only to Muslim male lawyers.)

BAOBAB members met with Ahmed Sani, the governor of Zamfara in November. He refused to consider executive clemency on the grounds that it would be detrimental to Islam. He continued to dismiss protest from human rights groups until last week and will only consider arguments made under Muslim law.

Although the Western media is notorious for anti-Islamic coverage, many groups say their protest has less to do with cultural relativism than basic human rights.

Amah said that Nigerian Muslims are also protesting against the sentence, especially women.

Local activist Abbas Mohammedi says the cultural relativism argument is a weak one. The 44-year-old Victoria resident and construction worker was raised as a Muslim in Iran.

He started a letter campaign against a Jan. 3 Iranian Supreme Court decision to stone to a death a mother of three children who lives Mehrshar of Karaj, a suburb in Tehran. The woman allegedly violated the sharia's law on adultery. While a student activist against Iran's Shah dictatorship in the early 80s, Mohammedi saw public hangings and floggings in his hometown.

"As a person who knows about Islam, there is a lot of inhuman belief. In black and white it is written that women are inferior to men.

"What is happening in Nigeria is the beginning of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the Shah in Iran. This sort of sentence is exercised every day in Iran. Women are arrested by the thousands for unIslamic behaviour. You don't hear much from the Western media because the country is so rich in oil and other resources."

Meanwhile, barely a murmur of public protest has been uttered by student groups at the university. Social Work student Ruby Peckham called the women's centre asking how she can join an organized protest.

"There's 1000 things that go on in the news and this really struck me, the incredible injustice of it," said Peckham. "Maybe it's even to appease my own conscience. I can't just sit back and listen to this and not make a move."

Magazu's sentence is only one of several cases promoting child abuse around the world, says Bob Mabee, executive member of Victoria's Amnesty International. "This isn't anything unusual. We write on cases like this that never make the news. A guy [in Nigeria] is waiting to get his hand amputated. He probably stole a bicycle or a loaf of bread. Isn't that just as horrendous?"

Women in Nigeria

Life expectancy (years)	52 (men 49)
Infant mortality (per '000 live births)	77 (boys 85)
Girls in primary or secondary school (% age group)	61 (boys 77)
Teenage girls ever married (%)	36
Households headed by women (%)	14
Management positions held by women (%)	6
Women ever physically abused by domestic partner (%)	31
Prevalence of female genital mutilation (%)	50

Source: UN, World's Women 2000. Trends and Statistics

University of Alberta hikes tuition

by Christie Tucker, Alberta Bureau

EDMONTON (CUP) – Despite protests from students, the University of Alberta will raise tuition by more than three per cent next year, pushing over $4000.

On Friday the university's board of governors voted to raise tuition by 3.2 per cent, which means students will pay approximately $121 extra next year.

More than 100 students gathered at the board meeting to protest the hike. The students, carrying signs with anti-tuition messages and beating drums, chanted "Free education, down with tuition."

According to board of governors representative Ove Minsos, the proposed tuition hike shrunk from an expected 3.7 per cent to 3.2 per cent. The 0.5 per cent reduction in the proposed increase will cost the university an additional $450,000.

The board voted 10 to three in favour of the increase, with three student representatives casting the only votes against the increase.

However, Minsos says the relatively lower percentage proposed by the board can't be relied upon to continue every year. "This is not the kind of proposal that is setting a benchmark," he says.

When the noise subsided, Graduate Students' Association president Shannon McEwan, Students' Union president Leslie Church and board representative Mark Cormier presented their argument against the tuition hike.

Student council at the university had voted for a zero to two per cent increase in tuition. Representatives say they still find the 3.2 per cent increase too high. Tuition in Alberta has risen by 208.8 per cent in 10 years.

Students' union president Leslie Church says instruction expenditures per dollar of tuition have sunk from $7 in 1988 to $2.50 in 1999.

Vice-president academic Doug Owram says the university recognizes tuition has risen too quickly. He says the administration has been in negotiations with the provincial government for additional funding.

"We have asked them to put the money back in post-secondary institutions so we can do our jobs properly," says Owram.

The university recently received $5.5 million from the provincial government, some of which has gone into the core operating budget and some which was put towards tuition costs, allowing the administration to propose the new lower percentage.

After the vote, the board called a recess, and several protestors occupied the board table. Two plainclothes campus security officers intervened and the students left.

Protest organizer Sophie Ares-Pilon handed out black gaffer's tape, which the protestors used to cover their mouths to represent the way the students' voices have been ignored in the tuition debate.

"I'm very disappointed that the [board] voted in the increase," Ares-Pilon said.

Meanwhile, the Mount Royal College Students' Association has decided not to support an initiative to freeze tuition increases for Alberta's post-secondary students at two per cent.

The student council has decided to use their own lobbying tactics, rather than support the two per cent cap recommended by a collective of the province's student councils.

"What we're suggesting instead is that we use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a lobbying tactic," said Mark Sollis, a vice president with the student association.

Sollis says that idea might be more acceptable to the Alberta residents.

"Let's not waste a year lobbying for something that we know we can't win, let's just get to the point."

- with files from David Loria, *the Reflector*

An island community struggles to survive

Youbou workers demand NDP action to save mill

by Ben Isitt

One community's struggle for survival in a changing economy came to Victoria on Jan. 14 when sawmill workers from the Lake Cowichan town of Youbou protested at the Parliament Buildings. Their demand? That the NDP government take action to save their mill, which TimberWest plans to close Jan. 26.

A total of 220 jobs will be directly affected by the closure, with an additional 700 jobs expected to disappear when Youbou and the surrounding region loses its primary employer.

"The forest companies want to export logs," Gary Lavoie, a 30-year veteran of the Cowichan mill, told *the Martlet*. "They say they make more profit off of it. But they're shutting down a profitable mill. We've made profits the last three years. We're one of the few mills that has."

Lavoie's union, the Industrial Wood and Allied workers (IWA) local 80, says the mill at Youbou has made $2.5 million in the last three years. The employees have put together a proposal to purchase the mill from TimberWest and run it themselves, but they need wood to process. And they claim that provisions governing the Tree Farm License (TFL) that supplies the Youbou mill have been changed to allow for the export of raw logs.

"We want the mill to stay open," says Rick Whiteford, business agent for IWA local 80. "We don't want to see logs shipped out of the valley to Vancouver when there's no need for it."

Whiteford says most of the wood from TFL 46, an area of Crown land covering a large swath of southern Vancouver Island from Duncan to the Pacific, used to be tied to the Cowichan mill.

Out of TFL 46's annual allowable cut of 462,000 cubic metres, Whitford said 365,000 cubic metres had to be processed at Youbou. But at some point in the last two years, the Ministry of Forests removed clause seven from Timberwest's lease agreement on TFL 46, the timber processing clause, opening the door for the mill closure.

"TimberWest wants to keep the TFL and close the mill," Whiteford said. "It's easier just to cut the trees down and sell them to someone."

While an official from TimberWest was unavailable for comment, in a press release announcing the closure, company president and chief executive officer Scott Folk says, "This was a difficult decision given our long history with the people at this mill." He added the company was open to selling the mill to the employees.

Whiteford says TimberWest has cornered the market on log exports, through its private lands, two TFLs, and access to the log market in Vancouver. Export restrictions on TFL wood can be sidestepped with the company's private harvest, Whiteford said, and if someone tries to block those exports, there is always the Vancouver log market.

"The logs TimberWest is exporting are off private land," Ministry of Forests spokesperson Eric Kristianson insists. These lands are regulated by the federal government and are beyond the jurisdiction of the province and the Forest Practices Code, Kristianson said.

"The Forest Act, since the turn of the century, has required domestic processing of logs harvested on Crown land," Kristianson said. Only logs deemed to be surplus to domestic needs, or those necessary to save logging jobs, can be exported.

Out of the 68 million cubic metres of wood that were harvested off Crown land in 1999, Kristianson says only 910,000 cubic metres – or 1.3 per cent – was exported prior to processing.

But these figures mean little to the workers and families of Lake Cowichan who will face certain economic hardship if the mill closure goes through.

"Give us some legislation that ties the wood to the mill. That ties the wood to those jobs," Whiteford says.

While the employees could pool their resources to cover the $1 million price tag for the mill, Whiteford says the province will need to provide the $20 to 24 million necessary to tranfer tenure on TFL 46 from TimberWest.

"We need the whole TFL," Whiteford said.

> Greenpeace, students, lumber workers, even small business people... If we band together we can make a change.
>
> *Dan Verbitsky, Youbou millworker*

The Forest Ministry's Kristianson said transfer of tenure is usually negotiated between private parties before being presented to the Minister for approval. But he concedes that under Section 71 of the Forest Practices Code, the Minister must review any mill closure and determine whether it is in the public interest to claw back a portion of the TFL equal to the mill's annual output and allocate it to someone else.

The model of community forestry is not without precedent. The district of Mission and the town of Revelstoke both hold Community Tree Farm Licenses, and nine B.C. communities and several aboriginal groups hold Community Forest Licenses. No logging companies are involved in the process, and the proceeds of the harvest flow directly into the community that holds the tenure on the land.

Mission has held a Community TFL since the 1950s, and Revelstoke negotiated a transfer of tenure in the early 1990s. Whether such an arrangement could take shape on Vancouver Island remains to be seen.

For the time being, the Youbou workers who took their protest to the legislature are looking for any indication that the NDP government cares about their plight.

"We have been promised by our MLA that they will take action, but they haven't done anything," Chachal Thiara, a worker in the Cowichan mill, told the crowd. "This is just the beginning. We will probably be coming back every week and every day if we have to. The government has to take action to save jobs."

"If the government wants to they can do it," Thiara said. "They can give some money to buy the mill and employees can run it. They can come up with solutions. And they can guarantee the supply of logs."

Two huge banners reading "Save BC Jobs" and "Where is Clause 7?" served as a backdrop to the Jan. 14 protest. Workers held placards reading, "Keep Cowichan Logs in Cowichan" and "Save our Communities!"

The 35 millworkers who converged on the legislature were joined by a smattering of supporters from Victoria, as well as unionists from other Vancouver Island mills. The Cowichan workers represented the afternoon shift, with the bulk of their co-workers unable to attend the protest as they were working at the mill.

Midway through the demonstration, former Minister of Forests David Zirnhelt descended the legislature steps to speak to the protesters. They quickly formed a scrum around the Cariboo South MLA, firing off demands and expressing their displeasure with what they consider to be his government's inaction.

> The forest companies want to export logs. They say they make more profit off of it.
>
> *Gary Lavoie, Youbou millworker*

"The minute you guys got into power, you changed the rules to allow the export of raw logs!" one angry worker shouted at Zirnhelt, now Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. "Stop raw log exports!" added another. "Someone is bullshitting the workers of this province!" a third protester exclaimed.

Zirnhelt was hard pressed to get a word in edgewise: "The government can't force anyone to keep the mill open. All it can do is take back the wood."

While the Jan. 26 closure will likely go through, government action could follow, especially with a provincial election looming and the governing NDP desperate to win back union supporters who have drifted away in the face of wage freezes and back-to-work legislation.

The protest brought out an unlikely supporter in Western Canada Wilderness Committee campaigner Ken Wu. The often hostile relationship between forest workers and environmentalists, highlighted by a clash between Interfor loggers and activists in the Elaho Valley in 1999, was pushed to the back burner as Wu rallied to the side of the Youbou workers.

"I want to say that as conservationists, we fully support efforts to keep the mill open," Wu told the crowd. "We think it's a crime to export any of these logs. It's going to kill our communities. We're going to fight this."

While the millworkers were uneasy when Wu first stepped up to the microphone, they applauded loudly after his speech.

Millworker Gary Lavoie insists forest workers have the environment in mind.

"We don't want to butcher the forests," Lavoie said. "We just want to do it sustainably. These companies are raping our lands."

Dan Verbitsky, a 24-year-old employee at the Cowichan mill, called for a united front to combat the closure.

"Greenpeace, students, lumber workers, even small business people... If we band together we can make a change. They won't look at us unless they see us out here," Verbitsky said.

"This fight here, what it's building up to, is about the community but it's also about what's happening across Canada. The quality of life is going down the drain. We have to have these good-paying jobs."

Verbitsky, who has worked a total of six years in the industry, the last three at the Youbou mill, said it is important for students to support the struggle to keep resource communities alive.

"This is a democracy," Verbitsky said. "People have to start running this country again, because it's not happening."

On Jan. 23, at 7:30 pm, a forum will be held discussing The Fight for Youbou, at the BCGEU hall, 2994 Douglas Street.

IWA members and supporters protest outside TimberWest's corporate headquarters in downtown Vancouver. *photo provided*

NEWS?

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The US pays UN whopper back dues

by Miguel Strother

Senator Jesse Helms has agreed to an amendment in legislation that will pave the way for the release of $582 million in American back dues owed to the United Nations.

The agreement to release the funds comes after a long stand off between the US and UN that has severely hindered the effectiveness of UN peace-keeping efforts.2

Although United Nation's Secretary-General Kofi Annan seemed pleased when he addressed the issue at a meeting in New York last Wednesday, he said the US still has a lot to do in order to fulfill its roll within the UN.

"The task for the United States is to recognize its own importance and to understand that the United Nations can and will play a central role in enabling economic development and protecting political progress, not least by helping to keep the peace," says Annan.

The agreement for payment was reached after the UN agreed to lower the annual amount paid by the US in both administrative and peace-keeping dues.

The US share of the $1.1 billion annual UN administrative budget will be reduced from 25 percent to 22 percent, which UN member governments agreed to in a major revamp of finances in December. It was the first revision of the UN's budget in 27 years.

Under the agreement the American share of the estimated $3 billion annual peacekeeping budget will be cut from 31 percent to 25 percent over the next six years.

A law passed by the US in 1994 put a 25 percent cap on the rate of American contributions to UN peacekeeping. If this remains in place, the US will just accumulate more debts since their percentage of peacekeeping costs will remain higher than that for the next couple of years.

The US's self-imposed 25 per cent cap accounts in part for the large discrepancy between UN. official figures, which say Washington currently owes more than $1.5 billion, and US figures, which put the sum at less than $1billion.

All money retrieved from the US will be used to pay off debts, says the UN.

"This amount of money will be very welcome to us," UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said. "Every dollar of it will go to back payments owed to contributors of peacekeeping troops and equipment."

Ontario passes private universities bill

by Katie Meyer

GUELPH, ONT. (CUP) – On Dec. 20 the Post-Secondary Education Choice and Excellence Act passed its final reading in the Queen's Park legislature in Ontario, allowing private universities to operate in the province.

"This act will help give students more opportunities for a high-quality education and ensure that they will have innovative and flexible choices," said Diane Cunningham, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities in a prepared statement.

However, some academics and students have concerns about the introduction of private universities.

The provincial government says no public funds will be given to private universities. But Ontario Liberal education critic Marie Bountrogianni thinks differently.

"During the parliamentary hearings, when I asked the parliamentary assistant if [Cunningham] could guarantee that no grant money or research money would be given to private universities from the government, she gave no guarantees," Bountrogianni said.

She is also concerned that under NAFTA's "fair treatment clause," private universities could claim that public universities have an unfair advantage in the economic market because they are publicly funded, therefore forcing the government's hand into funding both sectors equally. The provincial government denies this possibility.

"We have sought a legal opinion on this. Our rights over health care and education are not threatened by the NAFTA agreement," says David Ross, a spokesperson for the Ontario government.

But Bountrogianni said she has consulted different lawyers.

"As it is written now, and as international lawyers have said, once we let them in, we may not have any control," said Bountrogianni.

Central Student Association spokesperson Jonathan DaSilva said private universities could mean skyrocketing tuition increases and the creation of a separate system for the rich.

"Students could essentially buy a university degree for say around $40,000. They say this legislation is increasing accessibility, but its only giving more options to those who can pay those high private tuition fees and for students who may not have the marks to get into a public university."

DaSilva said he also fears research at public universities could be in jeopardy.

"Private universities, through corporate funding, will be able to pay their professors more. They'll have more up-to-date technology and more research dollars. The government is cutting funding to universities and is not putting the funding into public universities to keep them at a competitive level."

"The real worrisome possibility is that this legislation may falsely lull people into thinking that this private university initiative will solve the current challenges facing post-secondary education in Ontario," says Mancuso.

Private universities could be in effect as early as September, according to Cunningham. The Post-Secondary Education Quality Assessment Board will advise the Minister as to new programs, including new university degree programs that will be offered by community colleges.

"Ontario's prosperity and the future prosperity of our students depends on them having access to high-quality and relevant education and training programs where and when they need them," said Cunningham.

- Alberta introduced legislation to allow private degree granting programs in 1997.
- Jan.11, 2000: The Arts Faculty at McGill University voted to establish a committee to study the creation of McGill College International (MCI), a private liberal arts college to charge $28,000 in tuition.
- Feb. 2000: A private college project led by former UBC president David Strangway is in the planning stage. Once approved, Whistler University will offer Arts and Science degrees to 800 students at tuition levels comparable to US universities.

American scientists say new monkey offers hope

by Carmel Ecker

Last week scientists at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Centre announced that they had successfully created the world's first genetically modified monkey intended for research geared toward combating cancer and Alzheimer's at the genetic level.

The rhesus monkey was made from an egg, modified to include a jellyfish gene that makes a cellular molecule glow under a special microscope.

According to BBC online, scientists and authorities in the UK are calling for stringent monitoring for this kind of research to avoid harmful effects for the animals.

There are also cries of alarm in North America over the possibility of the slippery slope to genetically modified people.

Eric Lescarbeau, a member of Gene Action, said genetic modification always poses ethical concerns. The fact that monkeys are biologically so close to humans raises the question of whether something like 'designer babies' is part of what this research is about, he said.

The big problem Lescarbeau sees is that the public isn't being consulted on where this kind of research is going.

We need "a democratic role in what is going to happen," he said.

Genetic research is controlled by corporations and "when it comes to money their ethics go out the window."

The new GM monkeys would replace the altered mice and other animals that have traditionally been used in medical research because they are more like humans, which scientists hope will mean more and better research results.

Scientists have named their newest member of the GM family ANDi, backwards for inserted DNA.

Andi isn't the first animal to be genetically modified. Sheep are commonly used in the drug industry, though Andi is the first primate, a class which includes humans.

The research involving ANDi was published in the Jan. 12, 2001 edition of the journal *Science*.

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Student group argues bankruptcy amendments discriminate

photo by Nicole Staebell

by Darren Stewart

OTTAWA (CUP) – The Canadian Federation of Students is challenging the right of the federal government to refuse people with student loans bankruptcy applications.

The student group has filed a constitutional challenge in response to recent amendments to the Bankruptcy Act. The CFS is arguing that the amendments are unfair and discriminatory.

Michael Conlon, chair of the CFS, said the law treats one class of Canadian citizens differently than another class.

"It's incredibly disturbing that the government felt they had to bring in this kind of heavy handed measure," said Conlon.

The federal government amended the act in 1997, making those who have loans under Canada Student Loan program ineligible for a bankruptcy hearing for a period of 10 years.

Conlon said the changes are "incredibly specific" in its unfair targeting of students.

Jean-Michel Catta, spokesperson for Finance Canada, said the change was necessary to combat the growing trend of students with significant debts claiming bankruptcy.

"Between 1990 and 1996, the increase in student bankruptcy were extremely significant," said Catta. "The issue was that the bankruptcy rate was getting quite high and the default rate [on student loans] was getting really high and something had to be done about it."

Catta added that in conjunction with amending the Bankruptcy Act, the federal government introduced various measures to counter student debt – including the Millennium Scholarship program.

But Conlon doesn't buy the federal government's response.

"Does putting students a few hundred dollars ahead compensate for a basic right? We don't think it does and that's going to be the position we'll argue from."

Conlon said he felt the Bankruptcy Act was adequate before the amendments, given that it required applicants to plead their case before a judge. He said these amendments "criminalize" students, given that the only other Canadians not eligible for these rights are those accused of fraud.

Todd Burke, a lawyer providing legal counsel to the CFS, said that the act discriminates against students as a group, based on the false stereotype that they are irresponsible with respect to the repayment of debts.

"We're arguing that consumer debt should not be treated differently than student debt," said Burke. He said the gist of the challenge to the act is that some people are being treated differently and therefore it is unfair.

A 1997 study showed that, while 40 per cent of all bankrupts were women, 60 per cent of those bankrupts who had student debt were women. The median gross household income for those declaring bankruptcy was $37,130 compared to $12,000 for those whose student loans were a critical factor in their decision to declare bankruptcy.

"The provision also discriminates on the basis of age, sex, association, disability and economic circumstance when one looks at the real impact the prohibition has," said Burke.

Burke said he expects the case to be heard by a judge sometime this spring, after the Attorney General has adequate time to review the challenge and respond in terms of his own view of this issue.

Government sources refused to comment on the details of the case because it is currently before the legal system.

The Parti Québécois without Bouchard:

What will the separatist movement do now?

by Jeffrey Werner

When Parti Québécois leader Lucien Bouchard announced his retirement last Thursday, he threw the future of the province's separatist movement into question.

Citing reasons including a need to spend more time with his family, the Québec premier called for a new Parti Québécois (PQ) leader who would "build up militancy... and advance the sovereignty cause."

But what the premier's resignation means for the future of the sovereignty cause in Québec isn't clear.

The PQ has always argued for a sovereign Québec. But the referendum of 1980, under the leadership of René Lévesque, found 60 per cent of Quebecers were against seceding from the confederation.

The 1995 referendum was as close as the recent American election, with the 'NON' vote winning by a mere 0.6 per cent. The next year, Bouchard took over as party leader but didn't feel that the time was right for another vote, a decision criticized by many hard-line separatist PQ members criticized.

"Bouchard couldn't see the winning conditions," says UVic political science professor Ronald Cheffins. "Another referendum could mean third strike out... [and] sovereignty is the golden thread that holds the party together. If those two [Bouchard and Lévesque] couldn't pull it off, who will?"

Pro-federation Liberals feel a relief with the end of the Bouchard era, a man who was a formidable opponent. Many doubt the existence of a new leader who could fill the premier's shoes. Not only do recent opinion polls among Québecers show another referendum will be a third strike, Parti Québécois members are also disorganized internally over party policies.

So why was a referendum victory more possible in 1980 and 1995 than now?

Cheffins, a specialist in Canadian politics, cites a number of differences.

He says the two previous referendums were worded unclearly concerning the direction Québec would take if the 'YES' vote won.

"Previous questions were fudged."

There are varying degrees of separation, from Quebec becoming an entirely autonomous country, with its own currency, passports, etc., to a self-governed entity with close ties to the Canadian federal government.

The 1995 referendum was so close that it prompted the Chrétien government to pass the Clarity Act, without Québec's support, whereby another referendum question must be very clearly stated and a "50 + 1" margin will not be enough to win.

The PQ "hated the act" which "essentially eliminated bargaining," says Cheffin.

"One of the problems is also the lack of a fresh wave of talent [in the party]. I can't see another referendum in the near future."

If you're for keeping Canada a 10 province nation, this is probably good news. The next PQ leader faces a tough decision, says Avigail Eisenberg, also a political science professor at UVic.

"I think that one of two things will happen. Either the PQ will elect someone more hard-line than Bouchard who will push a nationalist agenda and fail to win the support of the majority... Or the party will elect someone like Bouchard or less hard-line who will not push a nationalist agenda and, in failing to do so, will also draw into question the whole nationalist project that the party represents. Either way, the PQ is in trouble."

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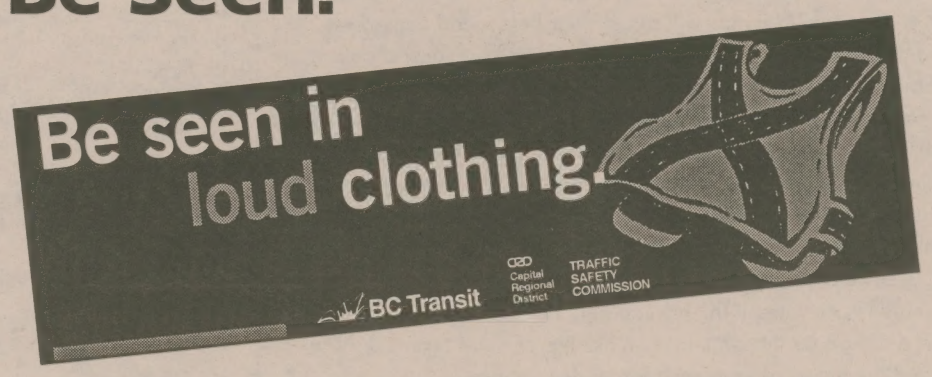

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EDITORIAL:

The Queer Conjugal Revolution

What are we going to do with all the his and her's bathrobes?

"Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."

- Section 15, 1 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

It's no surprise that Grant Hill, an Alliance MP who acts as a critic for family matters accused Adrienne Clarkson of "social activism" for sending a reply to a wedding invitation by email to a gay couple living in Toronto. Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell were married in the Metropolitan Church under the banns of marriage, a sharp strategy on their behalf as common law in every province defines a married couple as a man and a woman.

Clarkson's email, sent by a communications staffer, said the Governor General would not be attending the wedding and offered her best wishes. The suggestion that her reply could constitute social activism is an ambitious delusion on Hill's behalf.

Social activism might include, first of all, a physical action based on ideological support, like, say, going to the wedding. Then Clarkson could have really twisted Hills' starched cotton knickers by piercing her nipples and standing at the gates to Rideau Hall with "Vows for Queers" painted across her ass, whilst I Knew the Grooms When They Used to Rock n' Roll blared from the estate parlour window.

The greeting was an innocuous bit of etiquette; Hill's reaction reveals just how narrow the Alliance party's vision of family is. Considering the Alliance policy on same sex anything, the reaction is just another sample of the myopic vision of the Christian Right. It's also a keen indication of what sort of world an Alliance government would create here in Canada.

The couple's decision to marry in a church can be interpreted as a bit of a paradox. Western marriage as we know it is rooted in the politics of the agrarian, Christian homestead. Its historical legacy is based on the principles of commerce and property rights; its function has changed as the forces of religion and commerce have shifted.

It would seem that marriage for queers is an absurdity: why borrow one of the most heterosexual, patriarchal social paradigms when you've spent most of your life trying to shed that skin? Unless, of course, you're queer and you want to be given a choice based on basic human rights unfettered by discrimination.

Civil codes in Canada should be brought to task by couples like Bourassa and Varnell, just as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms should supercede any narrow definition of a married couple which limits individual rights and freedoms based on gender. Hopefully, their marriage will be used to challenge the constitutionality of the common law. It's time to change the legislation and get on with it. What do heterosexual couples have to protect anyway, other than their own power? The heterosexual empire can't boast a cast of trophies for its nuptial performance. With a divorce rate soaring past the halfway mark, straight kids can't even keep conjugal house. Maybe the queer couples in this country could teach them a thing or to about staying power.

Whether we marry for ritual or cash or a crack at the longest standing rite of passage in a culture bent on dismantling any sense of ritual we have left, we all have the right to give it a go, queer, bi, straight or otherwise. When queers are allowed to marry, the sexual politics of this country will change just as they did when women were considered persons with a right to vote.

Hill and the rest of the Alliance family critics can conjure thier own queer conjugal Armegeddon: Everyone will marry their best friend, regardless of gender and the homos will take over the suburbs and the local shopping mall walkathons every Saturday morning. They will join the Kiwanis and the Rotary Clubs. They'll host Marriage Encounter Weekends. Tupperware stock options will bust. The birth rate will plummet as all the queer couples will be busy filing adoption papers searching out the world's parentless kids.

Ah: cornering the market on human reproduction. We can then contemplate creating genetically engineered monkeys with the queer gene. It'd be a Queer Takeover at best.

What would we do with all the his and hers bathrobes and bowling shirts and special deals on Caribbean cruise ships? Never mind tax breaks and bursaries and the heaps of extra cash for student loans.

Oh the iniquity.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at noon in the SUB B011. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff.

LETTERS:

Affordable alternatives at SUBtext

In the January 3 edition of *the Martlet,* you featured an article about the "soaring prices of textbooks." We would like to thank you for your balanced approach to the issue, which included our store as a viable option for students. Within the article you stated that SUBtext consigns books and receives a 10 per cent commission for that service. Unfortunately that is in error, the consignment commission is in fact 25 per cent, which helps us cover our operating costs, including our unionized student staff.

Last year, SUBtext paid students nearly $250,000 for consigned books. We estimate that students saved $150,000 buying second-hand textbooks through our store. We have also added new services, such as a searchable database of used bookstores across Canada with more than a quarter million titles and hope to have our entire consignment inventory online, and searchable through our website by September.

Both SUBtext and the bookstore are committed to providing students affordable alternatives to high priced textbooks and a way to reuse texts that benefit everyone.

Michael Joyce
SUBtext Manager

Coke Club Prez bares all

Hello, my name is Chuck Wootten, and I am President of the Coke Club. For some time now, people have been criticizing my club. My Minister of Finance has done a fine job defending us, but I feel it is time you heard it from me. I was the sick guy that came up with this darn club, it's my brainchild, and now I must defend it.

Whether you believe us or not we are pro choice and anti-corporate. We stand for the right of a student to choose their beverage based on taste not monopoly.

Sure we are called the "Coke" Club, but we chose that name because it is the opposite of Pepsi, and it's a big name that will attract attention. I doubt we would have 900+ members if we were called the Cola Club. A little controversy never hurt anyone!

The fact that we draw attention and give free advertising to the Coca-Cola Company is an unfortunate by-product of our club's name. Coke actually doesn't like us since we are attacking Cola monopolies. But you guys are right, from now on we will make an effort to sell straws that come with alternative 'free' beverages such as Pepsi, Safeway Select, RC Cola and A&W.

The main goal of this club is not political. The Pepsi contract doesn't expire until 2008, so not much is going to change. We just want to have fun. We are a social club and want people to enjoy their time at university.

Chuck Wootten
President, UVic Democratic Assembly of Coke Drinkers

APPEAL FOR CREATIVE GENIUS

MONOLOGUE: A first person, non-fiction narrative written by a student or staff member.
STUDENT VOICE: The opinion of a student, any student.
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BLOOD ON THE DANCE FLOOR: The opinion of a student, any student with an arts spin.
SPORTS CALL: The opinion of a student, any student about sports.
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*** Workstudy eligibility will be taken into consideration for both positions, although it is not necessary for either.**

If you want more information contact Editor Gillian Jerome or Managing Editor Meesha Chan in the Martlet office (SUB B011), or call 721-8361.

Applications should be dropped off in *the Martlet* office by January 19th at 4:30 pm.

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MONOLOGUE:

Bouchard's farewell: A cue for stronger communities

by Ben Isitt

Many have celebrated the resignation of Québec premier and Parti Québecois leader Lucien Bouchard as a victory for Canadian unity and a defeat for the cause of sovereignty. But I would argue that the many diverse peoples of Canada can feel affinity toward each other while objecting to the rule and authority of the central government in Ottawa. Sovereignty doesn't belong to the Queen in England: it should be vested in local communities.

There are many weaknesses in the Bloq Québecois and Parti Québecois, but a commitment to the sovereignty of the Québec people is not one of them. The favouring of neo-liberal policies at the expense of the PQ's traditional pro-labour, social-democratic base of support has hurt the movement. So too have elements within the sovereigntist camp that are hostile to immigrant and Anglophone communities. True sovereignty demands the acceptance and participation of all members of a region.

In 1919, a person walking through Victoria's quaint downtown would have noticed a banner strung across Fisgard Street at Government – the present-day site of Chinatown's Gates of Harmonious Interest. 'Armistice terms or Separation,' the banner proclaimed. The first part was a demand that the Canadian government enact provisions of the Paris Peace Agreement guaranteeing the rights of workers to organize into unions and strike for better conditions. The second part suggested allegiance to Canada would be severed if this demand were not met.

The idea that Canadians would want to wrest control from Ottawa and empower their own communities is not isolated to Québec. This sentiment has existed in Victoria throughout the past century, and it speaks to the support Western Canadians give to parties such as the Canadian Alliance and its predecessor, the Reform Party.

"The West wants In" was a demand of the Left long before Preston Manning popularized the slogan during the 1988 and 1993 federal elections. The greatest tragedy of the Reform-Alliance movement is the largely successful effort to redirect genuine feelings of Western alienation and aspirations for self-government into what I consider to be a backward, intolerant, xenophobic incarnation of the neo-liberal agenda.

In 1988 the NDP won 19 of B.C.'s 32 seats in the House of Commons. It was seen by many as the protest party of disenchanted and disenfranchised Westerners. But a decade of provincial NDP rule – coupled with a hostile media intent on exposing (and even creating) an incessant barrage of scandals to discredit social democracy – has eroded support for the NDP and redirected legitimate anger into the Reform-Alliance camp.

So we see the anomaly where a province governed by a pro-labour party votes 50 per cent in favour of the anti-labour Canadian Alliance. A province that has granted the most extensive rights to gays and lesbians in North America, and that has voiced some support for the settlement of aboriginal land claims, now votes for a federal party obsessed with heterosexual marriage, opposed to reproductive choice, committed to the death penalty, and hostile to immigration.

Demands for self-government for the people of the West need to be provided with a new outlet. No longer can this movement remain the personal domain of far-right, Holocaust-denying lawyer Doug Christie, head of the Western Canada Concept party.

The ultimate goal, I believe, is the attainment of regional sovereignty within the framework of federal and international co-operation. The Queen of England does not deserve to be the highest power on southern Vancouver Island. Nor does the centralized quasi-dictatorship we send to Ottawa every four years.

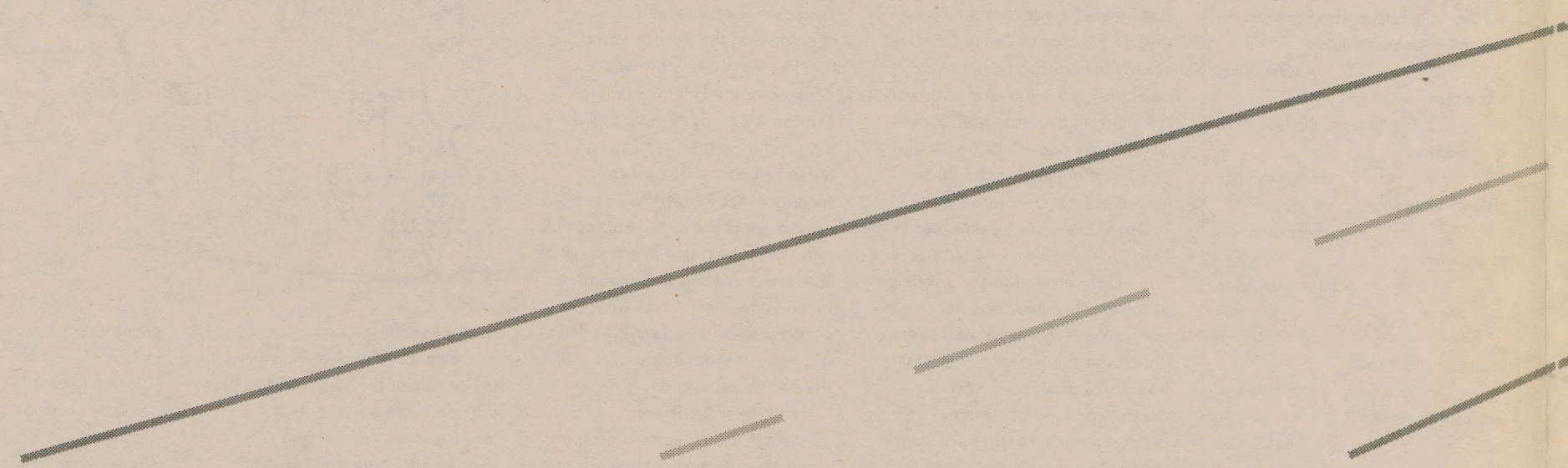
Should the Royal Jubilee Hospital be held in perpetual financial crisis because of Ottawa's unreliability in providing the provinces with transfer payments? Should the airwaves in our community be governed by a central body appointed by Jean Chrétien? Should the decision to invest Victorians' hard-earned tax-dollars in bombing Yugoslavia and occupying East Timor be left to a government 8,000 kilometres to our east?

I don't think so. True democracy can only occur on a scale where people can interact face-to-face with one another. Regional governments need to be empowered so that the citizenry can fully participate in the formulation of economic, political, and social policy. Communities need to be granted the tax-raising and regulatory powers necessary to ensure economic development and environmental sustainability. These participatory regional governments must be sovereign political entities.

In announcing Lucien Bouchard's resignation, the *Times Colonist* wrote the following: "Some day, historians may view his departure as the death knell for the sovereignty movement." The vested corporate interests who own our newspapers would love that.

But I'm a history student and I beg to differ. I see in the resignation of Bouchard the potential for a truly progressive sovereigntist movement to emerge. From the cities and countryside of Québec, to long-disempowered aboriginal communities across North America, to Prairie farmers battling agricultural giant Monsanto, to people everywhere who are struggling for democratic control of government and industry in the face of globalized corporate rule, I believe the struggle for popular sovereignty has just begun.

> Regional governments need to be empowered so that the citizenry can fully participate in the formulation of economic, political, and social policy.



out there the lines are simple

by bee simon

I drive home hugging the white curb line like someone after their second pint. I keep my eyes to the right, avoid contact with the meridian. The winking yellow reflectors taunt: Go ahead, drive into it. I imagine the screech of cars piling up behind me, each impact a shudder on this cold night. I pull my eyes away to the streetlight, a ditch is better I think, then up towards the darks tops of trees above billboards that praise Jesus Cares.

I'm not alone in my obsession with accidents. Negative daydreams reel through my mind. No, I say, that won't happen. That's ridiculous. I grow angry, fight with images that have no concrete shape, just smoke. Spun out, I pull over. The sucking hole in my stomach grows darker, almost dark purple, the night sky I fix my eyes on. No crickets, just my foot thumping the gas pedal, car idling in park, my two thumbs on the wheel locked white.

****

Prescription:
St. John's Wort twice a day, shot back with nostrils plugged-hard, alcohol makes me retch. Daily walks, dragging along the fence posts, memorizing paintings and furniture arrangements on my four block route; a local 6 pm pervert peering in at others. And cognitive therapy to change the negative thoughts I hold about myself.

****

Three years ago, showering was an effort in a cold house. I would pad into the kitchen at 2 pm, wearing my blanket and slippers, sit in the armchair and listen to kettle rattle and boil on the stove. The clink of spoon and honey, the creak of the springs. From where I sat I could see children walking home from school, swinging their bags by the straps and clustering in gossip. When the last boy, head in a book, disappeared from the frame, it was time to get up. My roommates would be home soon; my reading for class that night sat untouched.

Wanting an appetite for something other than chocolate and toast, I tried drugs.

Not Prozac but Serzone, similar in that it produced a static hum, a subdued 9-5 drone. A welcome change from a wet face, and a half-sung song lyric echo. "There is a me you would not recognize dear / call it the shadow of myself" (Over the Rhine). Twenty-one pills and seven days later, my life was frozen. I looked at myself through windshield ice, a foreign outline.

****

I'd like to say I made a conscious choice to withdraw from antidepressants, but I didn't. I simply ran out. In retrospect, it was better than being numb. Sex on antidepressants isn't that stimulating. I spent three days, nauseous and shaking till the swings came back.

I had hit the edge, smoked the barrier and was skinned with self-knowledge. My relationship was over. I had lost all sense of myself. The next six months I lived in my bathtub, filled two thick journals, and probably drove my neighbors crazy with the CD on repeat.

Each night after dinner, I would light candles. Draw a bath, slide Over the Rhine onto the stereo and pour myself in. The heat would burn at first, my feet red and swollen, but I wouldn't move. The piano holding a constant note. Crying in waves, remembered words small daggers I pushed in. The thrum of keys a heartbeat, something I could hold onto as I pulled out each blade. Questions written long into the night. Old patterns began to unravel, falling open onto the page.

****

Often I felt a rumble days before it came on. A teasing remark would upset me for hours. I would listen to Nina Simone's "Lilac Wine" on repeat. I inhaled sugar, sucked it back till my teeth hurt. Eat and eat, stuff that hole, fill the hurt. "You don't eat well, you need to exercise more," each phrase my own, a leaden rock that sunk.

I hit bottom again two years later. I was ready to try anything: acupressure, reiki, headstands for half an hour a day. Unable to exist in the simplest social situations, shy and moody, I hung back and felt worse. A friend suggested homeopathy. She swore by it. I took the number down and called. My homeopath explained it works like a vaccine in principle, but each remedy is tailored individually. You are given a diluted essence of your illness, kick-starting your immune system to fight it off. Fear of dogs, fear of being left out, a mind-body split, all clues.

I dissolved the tiny pills on my tongue and waited. A rush of energy and then a low – all my issues in front of me. When the low lifted, I felt a lightness that has stayed with me. Every two or three months I take another dose. Content and balanced are now words I use to describe myself when writing home.

****

Until six months ago, I never listened to my negative thoughts, each worry stomached away. But in therapy, a small voice came out of me, a voice I like to call Simon. Simon was pretty clear about what he needed. "Stop killing me," he said. The past ten years I had strategized his death with drink, excess work and self-hatred. All my depression, insecurity, jealousy, immobility was his fault. I didn't listen to his demands for ice cream, silly songs, or time outside. I didn't know how to listen to my own needs behind the horrible feelings.

I take Simon to the gym, give him a name and a place. I learn from his temper tantrums. I still work ten hour days, five or six days a week, something we're in disagreement on. But I feel unable to work less than two jobs, for fear I'll have time to think. Large blank spaces of time most people use for reflection are a minefield for me.

When I get scared I head out on the road. Out there the lines are simple, high beams slicing across pumpkin fields, trucks blurring as they pass. When the temptation is too great I pull over, find a phone booth and let it ring. Ready to hang up the receiver when my answering message picks up. I breathe into phone, feel silly and self-conscious. Sometimes it takes distance, gas jockeys and road signs that read Victoria 30 miles, to see things again, as they are. To laugh at myself muddy, on the side of the road, calling out for a voice and all I get is my own saying, "I'm not home right now," but I'll be back soon.

photo provided

I drive home hugging the white curb line like someone after their second pint. I keep my eyes to the right, avoid contact with the meridian. The winking yellow reflectors taunt: Go ahead, drive into it.

Mental health resource on campus

by Arley McNeney

During the course of the school year, 10 per cent of the UVic student population will visit Counseling Services. Thousands more will make a trip down to Health Services because of a psychiatric issue, and another 200 will use the Peer Helping Center located in the Student Union Building.

Depression is characterized by persistent feelings of sadness, lack of energy, change in sleeping and eating habits, feelings of worthlessness and guilt, and a difficulty concentrating.

"Universities are a breeding grounds for obsessive-compulsive disorders, social phobias, social anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, general anxiety disorders, substance-induced anxiety and the like," says Dr. William Dyson of Health Services.

"It's all about balance and self care," says Dr. Rita Knodel of Counseling Services. "When a person starts feeling out of control, they need to take steps to get back into control."

Counseling Services offers workshops in areas such as asserting your self-worth, relationships and stress management, as well as personal sessions.

Health Services has psychiatrists on staff, and general practitioners working there are sensitive to the mental health needs of students. They can prescribe medications, discuss problems, and give students a valid medical excuse to the university for dropping a course. Doctors at Health Services can also suggest non-medicinal ways of dealing with psychiatric disorders, such as the S.A.D. lamp for seasonal affective disorder.

Health and Counseling Services work closely together, often referring a student to one facility or the other. Both facilities can also offer aid to someone trying to help a friend through a tough time.

The Peer Helping Center also stands as a resource to students wanting to talk out any number of problems.

"The benefit of the Peer Helping Center being run by students is that we can be more accessible," says Jo Sargeant of Peer Helping. "We have knowledge of campus life and specific courses that the counselors may not have. We, as students, are in a similar situation to most of the clients that come in."

Coffee top v.s. toilet top: B.C. history makes it into the bathroom

Harbour Publishing's new project proves to be amusing counterpart to mega-sized Encyclopaedia

by Julius Davies

Here's an unlikely pair: Harbour Publishing, B.C.'s vanguard of culture, history and art, sharing pillows with *the Province*, vanguard of B.C.'s largest font-size. But Harbour also has a half-decent printing press, and *the Province*, a half-decent bank account. The result, *The Way We Were*: "A fresh approach to B.C. history that will please even those who thought they didn't like history." The book's bonus? It's under $20.

The Province did pioneer that very successful "fresh approach to news for those who thought they didn't like reading."

Harbour Publishing is the proud parent of their impressive coffee table brainchild: *The Encyclopaedia of British Columbia*. (After reviewing our complementary copy at *the Martlet*, we considered using it as a large coaster for coffee mugs.)

The result? A counterpart to the *Encyclopaedia* that isn't hard-covered but glossy, a book that is about B.C., and cheaper because the pictures are all printed in black and white (with exception of the misleading cover). If you don't consider that for an extra $30 you will get an enormous tea tray with three times more information, *The Way We Were* looks like a good deal. Never has B.C. history been such fun! Forget stuffy pictures of boring locals like Sir Matthew Bailey Begbie or Beverley McLachlin. In their stead, Mark Twain apparently visited briefly, smoked a lot of cigars and got his photo taken, and there's Princess Di bowing to Mother Teresa "like a candle in the wind." Princess Diana gets more head-time in this book than W.A.C. Bennett at a ratio of three to one.

More photo credits: Albert Einstein links space, time, matter and energy in ways never before imagined. Charlie Chaplin introduces his "little tramp" character to the world. Mussolini smiles. JFK and Jacky arrive in Dallas one fateful day. These are there to help the reader put the myriad other photos – sex offenders getting arrested, houses burning down, aeroplanes crashing – in their proper historical context.

Call it *the Province*'s Amazing Journey to Becoming a Shitty Paper. It is a sumptuous and vacuous feast of famous people, eye-grabbing photos, hyper-succinct summations. "Rosa's Ride: Seamstress Rosa Parks, 43, refuses to give up her seat near the front of a city bus on Dec 1, 1955."

photo provided

We Were, B.C.'s Amazing Journey to the Millennium? Yes, my reader, this is the perfect gift.

For added value, there are collections of *the Province*'s "Favourite Letters to the Editor" at the end of each decade. These are funny because they're either inside jokes no one, not even a librarian, will understand, or they're really, really bigoted. From a letter written in camera during a meeting of the Independent Association of Orangemen: "No [foreigners] For Canada! And if our Government insists, then take them to their beloved Quebec. But no [foreigners] for British Columbia." Well. Shoppers will just have to make a point of not buying *The Way We Were* unless they are of First Nations descent.

There is, however, a sad fact about this book I should mention. Due to it being completely printed in black and white (except for one sneaky Kodak moment of Ross Rebagliati on the back cover – don't be fooled), and in addition, printed on as low a grade of paper as possible without being newspaper, this book has a certain undainty fate in its future. Hey, for $20, what do you expect? While its counterpart sits atop glass coffee tables, admired and delicately functioning as coaster, tea tray and babysitter's last resort, ultimately, *The Way We Were* is destined for the magazine pile on top of the toilet. There it will be briefly consulted, or not so briefly, but always preferred to the *Home & Garden* and *TV Guide*. Not always preferred to the *Maxim*, but a good last-ditch decoy should parents show up. This is *the Province*'s way of ensuring longevity for their paper. How many Canadians will read their paper twice over?

And, of course, should you run out of toilet paper...

It is a sumptuous and vacuous feast of famous people, eye-grabbing photos, hyper-succinct summations.

The Vancouver Province is not staffed by journalists; it's staffed by psychologists and sociologists. Granted, the evil, Faustian game-show kind, but they nonetheless know their stuff. Masters of distraction and creators of the perfect commercial holiday gift. What is the perfect Christmas, New Year's, Birthday and Valentines's gift? (True, anything over $500 is the perfect gift, but what is the perfect and reasonable gift?) The perfect gift, (ties and soap and thoughts-that-count gifts aside) is one that is both economical and absorbing. The Rubiks Cube, but less annoying. The Toblerone, but less fattening. The Oprah Winfrey Book Club book, but less time-consuming. The Smash Mouth cd, but less fickle. *The Way*

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Hotel Sorrento resonates with fresh perspective

by Colin Plant

"G'day mates. There's a fair dinkum, going on down at Langham Court Theatre!" For the next two weeks, the Victoria Theatre Guild is offering audiences an opportunity to take in an Australian drama that succeeds on many levels.

The Guild's first production of the new year is the Australian play, *Hotel Sorrento*. Penned by Hannie Rayson in 1990, it was adapted into a film in 1995, featuring Joan Plowright. This tight production features sensitive direction, a successful production design and a strong ensemble of local actors.

The Guild deserves a great deal of credit for selecting this play for the cold and rainy month of January. Typically, the Guild has offered audiences a fluffy comedy in this post-holiday slot to help take away the blues. However, this year they are offering a drama that provokes a great deal of thought. *Hotel Sorrento* sheds fresh light on a variety of themes such as family loyalty, the role of culture and a country's identity. The parallels between Australia and Canada become obvious in this well-rehearsed production.

Situated in southern Australia in the coastal town of Sorrento, we witness the trials and tribulations of the three Moynihan sisters as they re-unite after ten years of separation. Eldest sister Hilary (Wendy Magahay) has remained in Australia with their aging father, raising a son alone after the death of her husband. Meg (Lorene Cammiade), the middle sister, returns home from England where she has lived with her husband for the past 10 years. Meg has written a Booker prize-nominated novel called *Melancholy*, an accomplishment that results in much of the play's tension as the autobiographical work reveals a great deal about the family.

Pippa (Allyson McGrane), the youngest sister, is a high-spirited advertising executive who lives and works in America,

photo by Tony Owen

***Hotel Sorrento* actors Sylvia Rhodes and Brian Fryer.**

but has returned down under with the premise of bringing Yankee margarine to the Aussies.

The play's sub-plot features two Sorrento locals who have a series of discussions about life in present-day Australia. Dick and Marge (Brian Fryer and Sylvia Rhodes), represent the author's thoughts on subjects such as post-colonialism, the role of culture and Australian men. A great deal of the play's humour is contained in these intellectual duels, but they also contain the social message that Australia, like Canada, is a country still searching for an identity of its own. In the second act of the play, they become more involved in the action as they interact with the Moynihan family.

Veteran director Judy Treloar has assembled a very competent ensemble of actors to perform in this piece. Treloar's productions are usually a notch above most Guild productions, and this one is no different. Her attention to detail, ability to evoke strong performances and understanding of the play's themes are undeniable. A short sequence where Marge describes trying to help her children accept their father's new wife as their mother demonstrates Treloar's understanding that less is more.

It is positive to witness a production that provides so many strong female roles for our local actresses. Each of the four women stood out in their roles on opening night. The relationships created between them were truthful and hinted at an immense tension that families can have when so much is kept buried under the cloak of civility.

Lyne McPherson's multi-locational set works well for the episodic play. In the first act it features three distinct locales. And although it becomes a tad crowded, Treloar is successful in choreographing her cast around Langham Court's small stage. In the second act, the play requires only two locales. Treloar is able to take advantage of the extra room to compose some lovely pictures onstage with her cast. In these effective stage compositions she is able to show the complex relationships between the characters in a physical context.

Costume designer Shelagh Evans does a solid job of dressing the actors. Each character dons clothing appropriate to their station in life. Larry Boardman's appropriate lighting is unobtrusive and Alan Mackenzie's sound design does much to help create the ambience of a seaside.

Langham Court Theatre rarely presents plays that offer audiences so much to think about. Perhaps the dawning of the new millennium means more than just a turning of a calendar for Victoria's esteemed community theatre. *Hotel Sorrento* runs till Jan. 27. UVic students receive a special discount.

For tickets call 384-2142.

FILM REVIEW

Reel Madness Festival promises but *Rollercoaster* is a lame ride

by Gillian Jerome

Beware: Vancouver director Scott Smith's latest film *Rollercoaster* may transport you back in time to a dark room oozing with teenage angst, Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb" and your own slippery sludge of poetic self-pity trapped in the folds of a little black book. Pack some razor blades. Contemplate locking a sibling in the freezer. Welcome to *Rollercoaster*, a.k.a Traumatic Teensville, a neo-grunge, post-ADD trip across the deserted grounds of the PNE with five young people on leave from a group home. What better way to spend an afternoon high on a mixed bag of treats when you're 15 and feeling reckless?

Smith's suicide pact plot line recalls William Blake's "dark Satanic mills," the psychological version, caught inside the minds of a few neglected kids. But the stories which manifest around the hacked suicide aren't as dark as we'd like, nor as interesting: the characters remain stuck in an e-induced grayscape with only two of the five-fold crew developed beyond the the complexity of fridge magnets.

Degrassi Junior High and *Trainspotting*: n'er the two shall meet? Ah. Think again. The main story begins and ends with a day at the desolate and deserted fairgrounds, a perfect psychological backdrop for a boyfriend-girlfriend suicide pact gone awry. Smith's fascination with group suicide began with a real-life story about three guys who drive from Montreal to Langley, B.C., to asphyxiate themselves in a garage. The film's thematic potential is potent: groping for place in the post-modern, alien world, without the foundation of family, or any other support, material or otherwise. The narrative begins to unravel the weird psychology of teenage friendships forged in place of family, but the writing nor the filming offer enough chutzpah to suck the viewer in; at times the dialogue is unbearable.

The film's main sore is Chloe, the lone femme fatale (Crystal Bublé) whose synapses bounce between bubble gum and day-time television talk shows. While the story becomes a fairly colourful kaleidoscope of fantasy and wrath, events surrounding an episode of abuse become the dramatic aperture for the film. The subtle emotional intelligence of Sketch (Brent Glensen), the youngest character, vindicates the crew from falling deep in the abyss of hopeless pop-narcissism.

It's worth the admission just to get a taste of a low-budget Canadian comer-of-age. You'll never again visit the PNE with the same emotional vision.

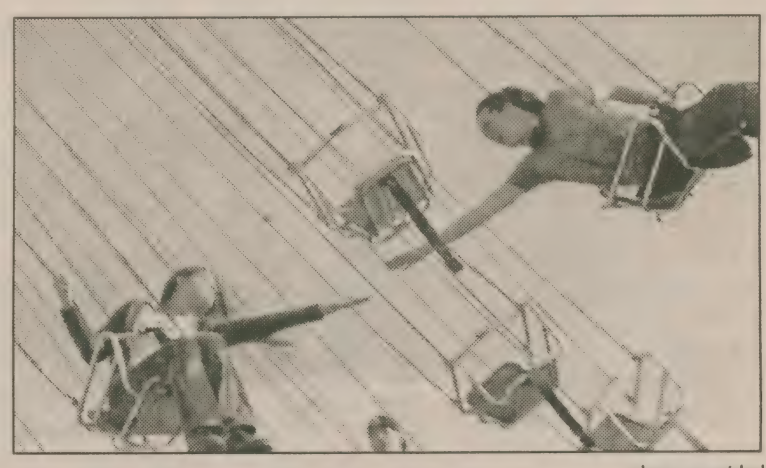
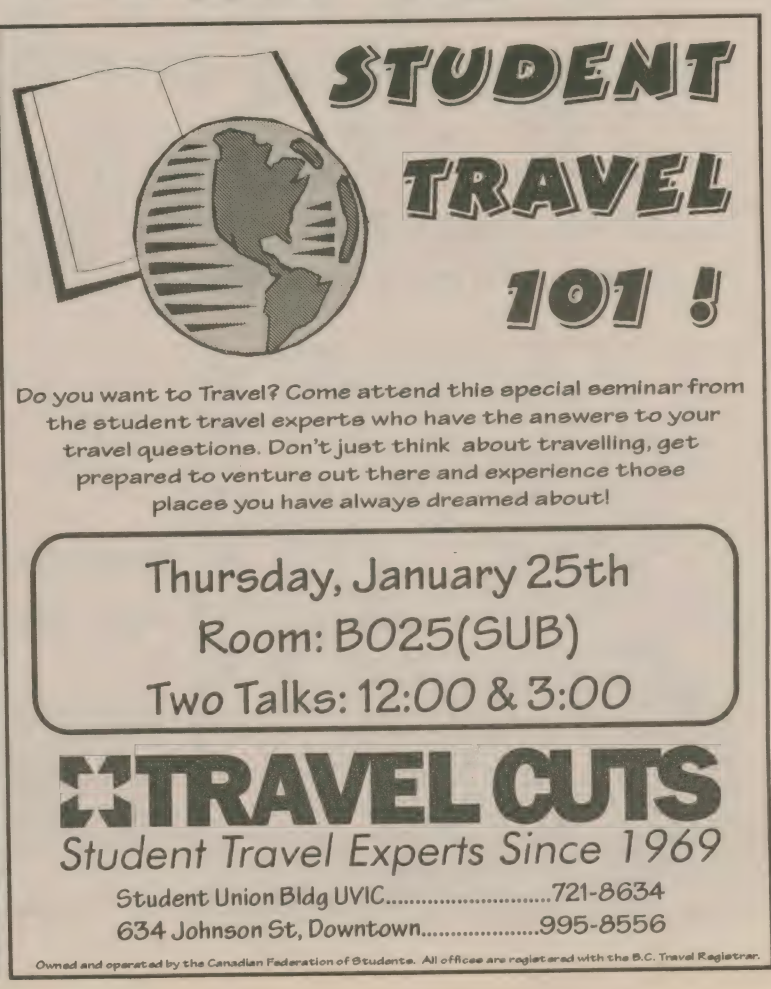


photo provided

Check out the Reel Madness Festival line up starting with a workshop on how to *Survive as a Filmmaker* by Vancouver director Lulu Keating Sat., Jan., 20 at the Eric Martin Pavilion, in the 1900 block of Fort Street. Some highlights: *The Moody Brood* (Jan.18, 6:30 p.m.) and by Lulu Keating, *My Father's Angel* by Davor Marjanovic (Jan. 20, 6:30 p.m.). For the full scoop with film talks, titles and screening times, check out www. islandnet.com/mm or call 595-FLIC.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Tobacco Act threatening future of arts in Canada

by Cereinyn Ord

TORONTO (CUP) – Organizers across Canada may have to reduce the size of their arts and cultural events or risk being shut down altogether in the wake of the Tobacco Act.

An amendment to the Act came into effect Oct. 1 last year, placing major restrictions on the advertising of tobacco products at all Canadian arts and sporting events. Under the revised legislation, a tobacco-sponsored event cannot be advertised until the day it starts and signs bearing the tobacco name must be kept within the venue.

As of Oct. 1, 2003, all advertising of tobacco products is prohibited, leaving the future of Canada's arts and cultural scene murky.

The du Maurier International Jazz Festival in Vancouver receives $570,000 a year in funding from du Maurier, their primary sponsor.

"The bill is clearly having a significant impact on arts events across the country," says Robert Kerr, Vancouver's director of the du Maurier Jazz and Blues Society. "In our case, there will be continued funding by du Maurier until 2003, but we still need to find new sponsors for that date. The loss is creating a lot of competition for sponsorship from new companies and there are only a small handful of key company players in the arts."

The tobacco industry gives approximately $2.4 million annually to arts events and organizations, making up 10 per cent of total funding received. Many arts directors are considering downsizing their events, if not having to shut down operation altogether, due to the new legislation.

Bill Boyle, chief executive officer of Toronto's Harbourfront Centre is dismayed with the loss of du Maurier as a sponsor.

"Du Maurier has been an exemplary sponsor and we are seriously worried that we will be unable to find new sponsorship to the same scale as them," he says.

In the past, du Maurier has given the Centre up to $600,000 of a total 3.5 million dollars in corporate funding per year. The Harbourfront puts on such events as the du Maurier Downtown Jazz Festival and the du Maurier World Stage, of which du Maurier contributes a large sum of money to in exchange for public advertising. Boyle, like Kerr, worries that some festivals and events may not be able to exist in the future.

Anne Chislett is the artistic director and co-founder of the Blyth Festival, a theater festival in a small town in southwestern Ontario. Du Maurier gives the festival $15,000 per year of a total $190,000. She says the loss will not threaten the existence of the festival, though it will eliminate the growth of new edge plays as new sponsorship will be hard to find.

"Competition for corporate advertising is fierce," she says. "The race for sponsorship is greater than ever and a lot of the smaller, rural events will be less likely to receive any."

"It's a tragedy," says Jane MacDonald, organizer of Vancouver's annual film festival. "There are going to be [smaller] groups that suffer and will never be able to replace that money lost from tobacco companies. The government is unnecessarily punishing arts organizations."

But Francis Thompson, policy analyst for the Non-Smokers Rights Association, feels the new legislation is justified.

"[The tobacco industry is] perfectly aware that their products have to be pushed aggressively. Sponsorship [at arts and sports events] is a part of that," he says. "If advertising had no effect on the popularity of smoking within the population, tobacco companies wouldn't do it."

He notes that tobacco companies advertise for two reasons: to convince people to smoke or to continue with their habit.

Meanwhile, arts events in Canada are seeking alternate methods of raising funds to ensure the continuation of their existence.

BOOK REVIEW

New local anthology launches but does not take off

Love and Pomegranates is an enjoyable walk through amateur breeding ground

Love and Pomegranates: An Anthology of Short Fiction
Rona Murray and Garry McKevitt, editors
Sono Nis Press

by Brenda Martin

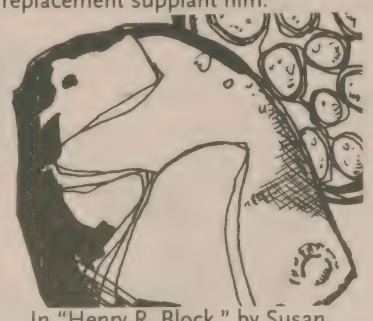
Some of the short fiction in *Love and Pomegranates* twists my soul and some grates my teeth. The writing is either piercing or wooden.

These short stories are written by young or raw Canadian authors who have not been widely published. The book was edited by Rona Murray, a writer with a doctorate in English literature, and Garry McKevitt, a writer and editor.

There are images that divine exactly what the author intends. Kirstin Reed's comparison in "Perversions" of the narrator to "a voyeur who peeks only into empty houses" sums up the safe thrill.

But, there are also lines that lose themselves. Alisa Gordaneer's description of the summer being "unrolled like the night sky, stretching over us like a smothering quilt" lost me between the two disconnected images.

The characters in these stories are hiding. From loneliness and betrayal, they deny themselves. In Bill Stenson's, "The Only Sign of Fire," Lester almost accidentally moves into the maple tree is his front yard to avoid his marriage, only to see his replacement supplant him.



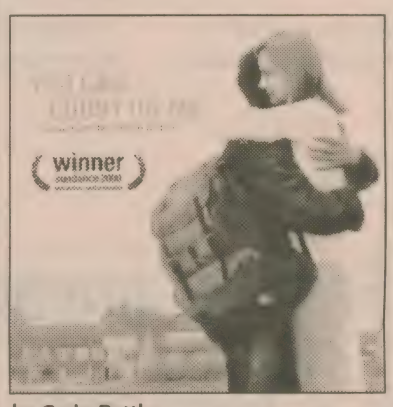
In "Henry R. Block," by Susan Trower and "Life is Fragile," by Joanna Zilsel, two women who at first seem fine quickly reveal themselves as not simply lonely but forsaken. They dedicate their lives to men who either do not recognize their existence, or who they have only seen dead.

However, if you were to choose to read only one piece in Love and Pomegranates, don't miss out on "The Terminal Canopy," by Joe Abernethy. After eight readings, I still could not decipher all the ideas the author intricately twined into a story about a man waiting to board a boat. Ron is undamaged while surrounded by people who are maimed or badly scarred. The mystery behind Ron's mysterious physical and mental "wholeness" is a powerful narrative driven by the juxtaposition of a surreal situation against a concrete setting. The end result is a polished story, with artfully crafted dramatic shifts and complex connections that provoke much thought even after an intense and enjoyable read.

Some of the writing in *Love and Pomegranates* is good and some is bad, but all of it is new. Many of the ideas leap, even if they are not executed properly. While this is not a collection of masterpieces, it is well worth the time (approximately four hours) to give this anthology a read.

CD REVIEW

You Can Count on Me proves to be a pleasant brush with country sentiment



by Craig Battle

You know, some music just seems to accompany dimly lit lounges, leather booths, shag carpeting and martinis.

However, the soundtrack for *You Can Count on Me*, doesn't. The film, which won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival is accompanied by an album that evokes the memories of back porches, sipping whiskey and wood floors littered with peanut shells.

The soundtrack features roots-music legend Steve Earle (alongside the Del McCoury band). His interspersed five songs add a cohesive quality and tone to the album, something that most modern soundtracks fail to do.

Standout tracks include "I'm Still in Love with You," Earle's duet with Iris Dement, and The V-Roys' incredibly catchy "Amy 88."

To be honest, I don't know how well the album fits with the movie. But I can imagine it blends perfectly with the small-town setting and comedic pace – the songs are often upbeat, always self aware, and well, kind of fun.

I'll admit, this album takes some letting go of staple biases. You know the ones. For example: "Oh, I listen to everything. Except country. And metal."

You Can Count on Me never approaches metal, but does offer a heavy dose of country, and country of the pre-Shania Twain variety. We're talking banjos, steel-peddle guitars, fiddles, and talk of roads and horses and people only coming 'round at night.

In other words, if you can't stand the heat, get off the prairie.

Like Steve Earle says within the first 10 seconds of the album, "You wanna be in the band, you have to put your hat on." If you want to enjoy the album, you might as well put one on too.

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Skeletons of words:

drying bones with Madeline Sonik

I'm in the cellar jumping rope. My shiny shoes are clickety-clacking like patent leather bones, and even though I know it's wrong to swear, I'm damned happy. So god-damned happy down here with these damned old oak roots that look like dirty fingers, cracking open clay bricks, busting them apart like there was gold in the centre.

excerpt from "Cellar Dust," from Drying the Bones

by Jessica Gin-Jade Chan

Local author Madeline Sonik prides herself in being called a witch writer. She says her ethereal perspective helps in telling the truth about human nature.

Sonik's proud statement is as astonishing as the open gap revealed by the parting of her lips in greeting. Her wavy hair escapes the rigid grip of a bun, standing up with static in lone wisps above her ears. She glances around the small seating area with delighted anticipation before informing me this is her first interview ever. She also tells me she is nervous, smiling apologetically and moving her head with several quick nods. She looks at her hands, can't seem to decide where to place them, finally rests her finger tips on the froth-lined rim of her coffee cup. This gesture causes her long loose-fitting purple sleeve to slip onto her elbows, displaying an untanned arm devoid of bangles or wrist ornaments.

The fiction writer's adamant proclamation may come as a surprise in certain circles. The author of the newly released *Drying the Bones* has previously veiled her interest in the spiritual realm from public knowledge. On the back flap of *Fresh Blood*, an anthology of Canadian gothic fiction she co-edited with Eric Henderson in 1998, her biography glazes over her passion: Sonik's relationship with the spirit world is described as "research in the supernatural."

The publication of *Drying the Bones* is in some sense a rite of "coming out" for Sonik. For many readers, her bold claim to being a practising witch serves as a source of fascination. This daring honesty is a recent development with Sonik.

"I want to say something about coming out as a witch and a writer. Once you call yourself a witch, no one else can call you anything worse. It's like you've 'done it'. With *Fresh Blood*, it was a tentative 'er, do I say it or don't I?' I didn't know if I wanted to be labeled as a writing witch. It's like my writing won't be judged just based on itself but always hand in hand with the witch aspect. You know, when female writers came right out and said they were feminist and that was how they thought, people couldn't stop talking about them as being 'feminist writers.' It was as though those writers had to be different because they were 'feminist,' therefore they weren't male and they weren't just writers, so there had to be something wrong with them."

Despite this fear, Sonik has taken the plunge with her daring declaration, made less for shock value than for the integrity it represents.

Sonik has not always been a writer of creative fiction. Trained in the techniques of journalism, Sonik's writing career originally started out in the field of non-fiction. Following her graduation from the University of Western Ontario with a concentration in journalism, she spent her first year as editor of a local business paper. In addition, she worked for a community paper. Her reasoning for this initial choice had much to do with job seeking. However, she soon found that journalism was not her calling.

"I realized I didn't want to go after that anymore. I took a degree in journalism because I thought it was a safe occupation, and I like to write, never realizing that it wouldn't fulfill what fiction would for me."

I don't think we should place so much faith in physical perception. I mean, physical perception is not everything. Take away that collective consciousness, and what do you get? A chair may become chopped wood, dust... you'll get a different perception. What that perception will be, who knows?

Madeline Sonik, author of Drying the Bones

It was during Sonik's second year of writing creatively that her first story was published. This first work was not a piece of literary fiction, it was a mystery. The story had been printed in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, a big American magazine pocket book that was released on a monthly basis. Sonik's early delight from the publication of the story resulted in a choice that would change Sonik's ambition in writing. Soon after, she made the choice to dedicate her attention to producing literary creative writing. Sonik has not looked back since.

"One of the things about writing and having a job on the side is that it sucks a lot of energy out of the creative process. I don't know if juggling both kinds of writing is a rarity or that I just find it hard to do, but I have to focus on either. For me, there is no balance, there's only creative writing, and I made that decision years ago. I only want to write short stories and poetry."

The artistic side in writing is another concern of Sonik's. Tugging gently at the handle of her coffee cup with two fingers, she outlines her love for details and passion for the literary.

"In journalism, you've got a stock way of doing things, you ask the five 'Ws' and one 'H'. In journalism, it's almost like dealing with words in one-dimension, you can't play with the language. There was a point in reporting when I started thinking, 'if only they said that instead', and that sort of thinking is not really the way journalism works. So I decided that fiction was the better solution."

This choice might seem jarring with Sonik's wish to relay truth through her writing. However, the writer presented her perspective on truth through fiction. Where hard news informs readers about ongoing events, fiction provides the personal perspective news often neglects.

Sonik's stories are a journey into the unspoken, the revelation of honesty. This honesty is carried through to her personal life. The author explains that personal honesty reflects accuracy in her writing. Mistakes made in writing are steps towards losing a reader's trust, she says. While it may seem ludicrous for such standards of absolute honesty to apply in the personal life of a writer, Madeline Sonik feels this level of honesty is necessary. Sipping hot coffee through her front teeth, she explains her unique take on writing ethics with the glee of a small child.

"Readers will believe honesty because intuition allows them to sense honesty. It takes a lot to get out there and say 'This is who I am, this is what I believe.' I am not only a witch, just as those feminist writers were not just feminist writers. By adding that label to who I am, I feel I am being more honest. And my readers will be readers who will value that honesty. What I am talking about is the inner landscape of people. People will know the kind of discrimination in a story, and they can connect with what happens in my writing. This is why my main concern with fiction is how it reflects truth."

True to its author's desire to relay the truth, *Drying the Bones* is a collection of stories portraying the painfully mundane and often repressed. The reader is given little time to contemplate the significance of each event; each story is condensed in the essence of five pages or under. The brevity in length evokes a sense of understanding between the characters and reader. Reading this book is like silently watching from a street corner: seeing your 18-year-old neighbour run away from her sexually abusive step-father, seeing Uncle Joe pass over his children for booze once again, seeing the world function on high speed.

"These stories are about being strange, they are meant to be a voice for the unspoken. We depend so much on reality that we forget the layers under the reality. My stories are about what I can see and what I cannot see. Our culture buys into fact so much that we think if something appears to be okay, then it is okay. We believe this so much that we actually go to the extent of ignoring the undercurrent that tells us that things are not okay."

This underlying current of energy is what Sonik attempts to tap in her stories. She believes this abstract current forms a connection between the writer and the written, the written and its reader. In extending this belief to her work, Sonik strives to display honesty by lifting the barrier that physical perception masks. Lifting her right arm with a teacherly flourish, she speaks to me with zest and abandon.

"I don't think we should place so much faith in physical perception. I mean, physical perception is not everything. Take away that collective consciousness, and what do you get? A chair may become chopped wood, dust... you'll get a different perception. What that perception will be, who knows?"

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Lady b-ball Vikes declaw Bobcats

by Jeremy Shragge

Having been knocked out of the top spot in the CIAU coaches poll five days earlier, the University of Victoria women's basketball team was looking to fight their way back into national pre-eminence against the University of Brandon Bobcats this past weekend.

The Canada-West Conference-leading Vikes split their first series of the new year, Jan. 5 and 6, against the University of Winnipeg Lady Wesmen. As a result, they were displaced in the Canada wide rankings by the University of Regina Cougars.

With a couple of strong performances against the visiting Bobcats, plus a little help from the fifth ranked Lady Wesmen (who were in Regina for a pair of matches), potential existed for the Vikes to regain the number one spot in Monday's coaches poll.

In the event, Victoria upheld their end of the bargain by defeating the much weaker Bobcats 65-39 and 78-57. Winnipeg, on the other hand, could only make it as close as a field goal, dropping both games to the host Cougars, 72-66 and 73-71.

Making their first appearance on the McKinnon court since November. 18, the Vikes came out of the locker room like rabid big birds. At the half, Victoria was up 38-18, thanks to a 53 field goal percentage and forward Kim Johnson's 18 points.

During the second period Brandon managed to pull themselves together enough to shoot 50 per cent from the field (up from an abysmal 23 per cent before the break).

Despite the improvement in accuracy, however, a commensurate (and requisite) increase in quality looks at the net did not materialize for the Bobcats. The home side out-scored Brandon for a second consecutive half, 27-21, enroute to a 26 point win.

photo by Richard Warrington

The Vikes' Kim Lobb (#15) carries the ball down court against Brandon U on Saturday night

In the first quarter of Saturday's rematch, Vikes head coach Kathy Shields went with a non-pressure defence. The tactic backfired. Brandon launched a 12-4 run mid-way through the opening half and ratcheted up a three-point lead before the nine-minute mark.

With the introduction of a more aggressive defence as well as some clutch scoring by Johnson and shooting guard Lindsay Anderson (13 and 17 first period points, respectively), the Vikes headed into the break with a 39-30 lead.

"We beat Brandon by quite a bit last night and we tried to not press them early," said Shields, "and we couldn't get any intensity in our half-court [defence] so we had to pick up full-court."

An improvement in their second half shooting (52 per cent from the field, up from 38 per cent) plus redoubled efforts to deny Brandon quality opportunities allowed Victoria to crushed any hope of a Bobcats road upset.

Anderson finished the game with 31 points; Johnson tallied 21. No other Vikes scored in the double digits. When asked about this disparity, Shields demured.

"We don't have a lot of inside scoring," she said in reference to Victoria's lack of production from their big forwards. "The bulk of our scoring is going to come from those two and we know that.

With 11 wins in 14 games, the Vikes now hold a four point lead over the two second place contenders: the SFU Clan and the University of Calgary Dinos, both of which stand at 9-5 after this weekend's matches. (In contrast, Regina's victories against the Lady Wesmen improved their conference record to 11-1; good for a 0.917 average, which is tops in Western Canada.)

The Vikes take to the road for the rest of January, making a stop in Saskatoon this Friday and Saturday to take on the below-five-hundred Saskatchewan Huskies.

On Jan. 26/27, Kathy Shields' team visits the not-quite-scraping-the-bottom-of-the-barrel, 1-13, Trinity Western Spartans, whose own futility in the sport of women's basketball is surpassed only by the hapless (and winless) University of Lethbridge Pronghorns.

Canada West/GPAC basketball standings

Men's

Canada West

	G	W	L	Pt.	Pct.
Alberta	14	13	1	26	.929
Victoria	**14**	**9**	**5**	**18**	**.643**
Simon Fraser	14	7	7	14	.500
UBC	14	6	8	12	.429
Calgary	14	6	8	12	.429
Lethbridge	14	6	8	12	.429
Trinity Western	14	6	8	12	.429
Saskatchewan	14	5	9	10	.357

GPAC

	G	W	L	Pt.	Pct.
Brandon	12	9	3	18	.750
Manitoba	12	7	5	14	.583
Winnipeg	12	3	9	6	.250
Regina	12	3	9	6	.250

Women's

Canada West

	G	W	L	Pt.	Pct.
Victoria	**14**	**11**	**3**	**22**	**.786**
Simon Fraser	14	9	5	18	.643
Calgary	14	9	5	18	.643
UBC	14	8	6	16	.571
Saskatchewan	14	6	8	12	.429
Alberta	14	6	8	12	.429
Trinity Western	14	1	13	2	.071
Lethbridge	14	0	14	0	.000

GPAC

	G	W	L	Pt.	Pct.
Regina	12	11	1	22	.917
Manitoba	13	10	3	20	.769
Winnipeg	13	7	6	14	.538
Brandon	12	3	9	3	.250

CIAU National Rankings

Men's Basketball

Last week's ranking in parenthesis

1. St. Francis Xavier	(1)
2. Carleton	(5)
3. Western	(2)
4. Alberta	(6)
5. Brandon	(3)
6. McMaster	(4)
7. St. Mary's	(7)
8. York	(9)
9. Victoria	**(10)**
10. Concordia	(8)

January 16/2001

[Women's Basketball

1. Regina	(1)
2. Victoria	**(2)**
3. Manitoba	(3)
4. Laval	(4)
5. Winnipeg	(5)
6. Calgary	(6)
7. SFU	(7)
8. UBC	(8)
9. Dalhousie	(9)
10. Laurentian	(7)

January 16/2001

Canada West/GPAC Basketball Results

Friday, Jan. 12
McKinnon Gym

M: **Brandon 68, Victoria 63**

UVic: Keith Bustard: 14 pts, 6 rebounds; Jason Crawford: 12 pts, 9 reb.

W: **Brandon 39, Victoria 65**

UVic: Kim Johnson, 23 pts; Lindsay Anderson, 14 pts, 7 reb.

Saturday, Jan. 6
McKinnon Gym

M: **Brandon 60, Victoria 71**

UVic: Sandy Bisaro, 20 pts., 4 rebs; Ali Wilmott, 11 pts.

W: **Brandon 57, Victoria 78**

UVic: Lindsay Anderson, 31 pts, 5 rebs; Kim Johnson, 21 pts.

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Vetrie's cagers salvage a win against high flying Brandon

by Jeremy Shragge

When the regular season ends on February. 10, the top two teams in the Canada West basketball conference will each possess a first-round play-off bye – an extra week to train, heal and strategize. The University of Victoria men's squad intend on owning one of these positions.

With only eight games remaining in the schedule, such a luxury is far from a sure bet.

Entering this past weekend's home stand with the previously third ranked Brandon University Bobcats, the Vikes found themselves in second place, six points out of first place and four above third. With Friday's 68-63 loss, however, the Victoria cagers lost precious ground to the conference leading Alberta Golden Bears (who swept the Saskatchewan Huskies 76-71 and 70-66).

Riding a four game winning streak dating back to November 24, the defensive minded Vikes had their hands full when they tipped-off against the high flying Bobcats.

Yet despite Brandon's scoring proclivity, Friday's match was a decidedly defensive minded affair. With Victoria up 29-26 at the break, there was little evidence to suggest that the second-half would develop into a shoot-out. The Bobcats, however, made a game of it, coming back soon after the restart to grab what was eventually a permanent lead.

In this case, however, the Vikes were the primary authors of their own misfortune. As Victoria head coach Guy Vetrie noted, "We struggled offensively."

In the first-half the Vikes could only muster an anaemic 31 per cent shooting percentage. Brandon, on the other hand, was scarcely better, shooting only 32 per cent. In the second period, when the Bobcats sank 55 per cent of their field goals, Vetrie's lads were able to make only 44 per cent. It was the difference in an otherwise closely fought match.

In addition, Victoria held a minimal edge in rebounds (34-32), while both clubs limited their scoring to a select few. Brandon had four players in double digits (Earnest Bell, Tyrone Smith and Donald Phillips put away 14), while Victoria sported three (Sandy Bisaro, Jason Crawford and Keith Bustard) plus one (Ali Wilmott) with nine.

"I thought we lost the game, they didn't win," said Wilmott.

On Saturday, defensive basketball was once again the order of the day – or most of the evening at least.

A 15-2 Vikes run in the first-quarter, highlighted by rookie guard Chris Trumpy's two 3-pointers, put the home squad up by 12 before 10 minutes had elapsed. It was a lead that Victoria would never relinquish as they went on to win their ninth game of the season, 71-60.

"I just think that we spotted them too many points in the first-half," said Brandon head coach Jerry Hemmings.

"We clawed our way back in there and got within a couple of points; unfortunately, we just couldn't secure the defensive boards on missed freethrows, and they were able to get it back and make some hoops from there."

When asked to isolate the chief difference in his team's play over the two evenings, Vetrie identified "poise" as the biggest factor. "We executed very well, I would say, for the majority of the game; we played with a lot of poise, especially in the first half."

"Last night were didn't execute and play with that poise in terms of shot selection, but tonight it was like a different squad out there in terms of the poise. We talked about it today. We played very well. I'm very proud of them."

Even with the similarities in the scoring and style of play, there were several significant dissimilarities between the weekend's matches, the most crucial of which was shooting accuracy.

Victoria's 49 per cent field goal average was a considerable improvement over the previous night's effort. (The Bobcats, parenthetically, could only manage 45 per cent from the field; barely one per cent better than Friday's game.) Bisaro scored a game high of 20 points and added four boards. Brandon's Bell was good for 17 points and nine rebounds.

With Saturday's victory, the Vikes moved into the number nine ranking in this week's CIAU coaches poll, while the Bobcats fell two spots to fifth.

Victoria takes to the road for the next two weeks as they enter the soft part of their schedule. Consecutive series against the bottom two schools in the Canada West – Saskatchewan this weekend and Trinity Western the next – ought to allow the Vikes an opportunity to solidify their grasp on second place in the conference table as well as that coveted first-round play-off bye.

The Vikes end the regular season at home against the Bears on Feb. 10.

photo by Carmel Ecker

Vikes #15 Sandy Bisaro lines up a free-throw Saturday night against Brandon.

Welcome to Prof. McCletchie's world famous Sports Trivia 101

by Iain McCletchie

Now, we know plenty of you kids out there are trying to find that perfect course which will fill out your timetable. It is then with great pride and hubris that we, *the Martlet* sports staff, introduce Sports Trivia 101. In order to determine whether you are eligible for entrance into this elite and highly academic course, a simple 15 question quiz has been prescribed. Those who score 12 or higher are invited to join up.

Remember, choose the BEST answer.

1. According to *Sports Illustrated*, Allen Iverson's rap debut is:
a. Misogynistic
b. Sexist
c. Racist
d. Terrific

2. Allen Iverson's team, the Philadelphia 76er's, have this much chance of winning the NBA finals:
a. 3 to 1
b. 10 to 1
c. 20 to 1
d. A snowball's hope in Hades

3. In volleyball, a "libero" is:
a. A player associated with the highly popular Libertarian Party
b. A player directly descended from Patrick Henry, of "Give me liberty or give me death" fame
c. A player who can only play defense behind the 3 metre line
d. God only knows, and he's playing dumb

4. At UVic, vôlleyball is:
a. An intense intramural activity played three nights a week.
b. A Level II varsity sport
c. About as important to the administration as tits on a boar.
d. All of the above

5. Goalie Eddie Belfour of the Dallas Stars is:
a. A wacked-out weirdo
b. A back-stabbing bitch
c. A selfish stiff
d. A very wealthy chap, indeed

6. Goalies are, on the whole:
a. Wacked-out weirdo's
b. Insane
c. Not the sharpest spoons in the cutlery drawer
d. Extremely grateful for extra-large nutguards

7. The most prodigious waste of talent in professional sports is:
a. Shawn Kemp
b. Shawn Kemp
c. Kemp, Shawn
d. Do the initials S.K. ring a bell?

8. The best nickname in pro sports is:
a. "The Glove" - Gary Payton
b. Robert "Tractor" Traylor
c. "The Grim Reaper" - Stu Grimson
d. Andre "Bad Moon" Rison

9. The all-time best name in pro sports is:
a. World B. Free
b. God Shammgod
c. Joe Smith
d. Dikembe Mutombo Mpolondo Mukamba Jean Jacque.

10. The Backstreet Boys are to music as hot pants are to:
a. Anna Kournikova
b. Gabrielle Reece
c. Jennifer Love Hewitt
d. Bryant "Big Country" Reeves

11. The WTA (Women's Tennis Association) is better than the ATP (Men's) tour because:
a. Faster projectiles
b. Anna Kournikova
c. More controversial referees
d. If you've needed to read this far, there's something wrong with you

12. The coolest athletes at UVIC are:
a. Basketball players
b. Rugby types
c. Rowers
d. Those dudes that ride around on souped-up mountain bikes, sporting all kinds of groovy-looking gear, and doing mean-looking jumps.
e. Men's field hockey players

13. The Tragically Hip song, "Fifty Mission Cap," tells the poignant story of:
a. Wilt Chamberlain and his 50th conquest
b. Bill Barilko's tragic death after helping the Leaf's win the 1951 Stanley Cup
c. Former Leaf owner Harold Ballard's waist size
d. Richard Simmon's I.Q.

Of course, we have to end with a couple of toughies.

14. Tom Cochrane's protagonist in the song "Big League" is out driving by which lake when he's killed in a car crash?
a. Lake Erie
b. Lake Michiga
c. Lake MacLean
d. Lake Winnipeg

15. Who scores in "Stomping" Tom Connor's song "The Hockey Game"?
a. Syl Apps
b. Gordie Howe
c. Wilt Chamberlain
d. Bobby Orr
e. Guy Lafleur

(Answers on page 18)

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Martlet sports best of 2000: Part two

February 17:

On Saturday, Feb. 12 the UVic women's basketball team began their quest for a third consecutive trip to the national championship final. Maya Samson reported:

"It was an emotional weekend at McKinnon Gym. The women clinched their sixth straight Canada West title in a two-game sweep of the Saskatchewan Huskies, while three Vikes played their last regular season games in the hallowed gym."

"... The game [a 80-49 victory] wasn't at all important in terms of the standings, but there were three big reasons to come together: Megan Dalziel, Janet McLachlan and Kim Oslund – the graduating players."

March 2:

Lindsay Brooke, the starting point guard of the women's basketball team, was profiled by Maya Samson for last winter's Women's Issue:

"There are these beautiful moments in the life of an armchair quarterback when the physical act of fan appreciation is an out of body experience.

"On Saturday night at McKinnon Gym I witnessed such a moment. During an intense game against... UBC, Vikes guard Lindsay Brooke ties up the score with a three-point-basket as the shot clock wore down.

"That basket created one of those precious moments when you, the spectator, are caught so deeply in the ride that your hands rise and stretch outward in appreciation, as if by their own volition, and your loud cheer is one that's been ripped from somewhere deep inside your chest."

March 16:

Less than a week after sweeping the third ranked University of Calgary Dinos in the Canada West championship, March 3-4, the Vikes travelled to Edmonton to regain the national title which they had relinquished to the U of A one year earlier. Craig Battle and the Gateway's Nancy Gregg filed the story:

"The UVic women's basketball team earned the right to sing a few bars of Queen's "We are the Champions" at the CIAU Women's Basketball Nationals this past weekend.

"In a [57-41] victory over the University of Calgary Dinos, the vikes took home their third national title in four years. That marks the school's eighth national crown, making UVic the record holder for most women's basketball championships."

(Sport's note: I was at the final game in Edmonton and it wasn't much of a contest. The Vikes completely outclassed the Dinos, nearly suffocating them with a sick defence and outstanding ball control.)

March 23:

Craig Battle, in an opinion piece on the NCAA basketball tournament, printed one of the best sports quotations of the year:

"... this month temple University Basketball head coach Jon Chaney told a *National Post* reporter, 'You know who was a good point guard? Jesus. Jesus was a good point guard... because he never had to give to the multitudes... he never had to go to his left because he was always right.'

"This is the kind of stuff that makes March Madness... better than any other type of madness that you can think of."

March 30:

In her profile of Ryan Clarke, the man behind Thunder, the Vikes viking, Dena vanDalfsen detailed the dangers of being a team mascot – and that of wearing those ridiculous costumes:

"Clarke believes that when the Thunder costume was first made, nobody thought that the mascot would be moving around at all.

"The eyeholes are possibly the worst feature of the suit. There are three mesh-covered, quarter-sized holes in the ridge of Thunder's helmet. 'You can't see or read out of them,' said Clarke. 'I can't see what I'm doing when I'm signing autographs and I have to constantly look down to make sure I'm not stepping on any kids.'"

September 21:

The week after his gold medal performance in the men's triathlon at the Sydney Olympics, Victoria's Simon Whitfield was profiled by Ben Isitt:

"In the hours following the race he was swarmed by Canadian and international media. His team threw a party for him that included the band Blue Rodeo, his girlfriend's favourite. And he even received a personal congratulatory phone call from Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

"But Whitfield didn't let it go to his head.

"His first meal after his gold-medal race was a takeout meal of McDonalds burgers between appointments."

October 5:

In another Olympic related piece, Jeremy Shragge detailed the sordid tale of Eric Lamaze, the Canadian show jumper who was kicked-off the Olympic team for drug use:

"The old adage that everybody loves a hypocrite is true, but only up to a certain point. We love those who live by the philosophy of "do as I say not as I do," because at one time or another we all live by one double standard or another. It loses its appeal when the hypocrites are either moralizing or in confederacy with one another. In the case of Eric Lamaze, both of these conditions apply.

"This country's current stance on recreational drug use by athletes is a farce. The aim of any sound doping policy is to make sport safe and fair, not to turn young athletes into role models or civic heroes."

photo provided

Mascots Squeekie and Thunder ham it up at UVic's Centennial Stadium last spring.

November 9:

Reporting on the Vikes victory at the national field hockey championships, Jeremy Shragge wrote:

"Meatloaf once sang that "two out of three ain't bad." Exceptionally profound words from a man named after a dish best served with beef gravy.

"This week the wisdom of Meatloaf's lyrics cannot be far from the minds of the players and coaching staff of the University of Victoria women's field hockey team as they bask in the glow of their first CIAU title in three years.

"National runners-up in 1998 and 1999, the vikes won the 2000 championship banner at home on Sunday, with a 3-0 victory over the number one ranked University of Toronto Blues."

(Sport's note: at the time that this story was written, the lead paragraph seemed quite clever. In hindsight it doesn't make much sense at all.)

November 23:

In the one and only sports feature of 2000, Miguel C. Strother examined the differences between the NCAA and CIAU with respect to issues such as academic excellence and scholarship funding:

"Ill informed perceptions and trumped up dreams driven by the billion-dollar machine of the United States' NCAA dwarf the credibility of home-grown athletic programs like the CIAU. Often these perceptions lead to moves that damage the athletic and academic careers of those starry-eyed Canadian athletes who hurl themselves into the big business of amateur sport in America.

"The Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union (CIAU) loses roughly 1,700 talented Canadian athletes like [Vikes soccer player Nico] Craveiro to the high-profile NCAA each year. But staying home to play varsity level university sports just got a little easier."

November 30:

In this edition of *the Martlet*, Dena "profile goddess" vanDalfsen told the story of Morgan Leverman, standout goalkeeper for the Vikes women's soccer squad:

"According to her father, Morgan's strength is one-on-one play. He recalled an all-star game when a player was coming down the field fast on a breakaway; Morgan came way out and threw herself at the girl's cletes. Morgan made the save. Ten minutes later the same girl got the ball and started down the field on another breakaway, but after looking up at Leverman, she stopped dead. That girl's teammates were yelling at her to keep going but the girl just said, "That hurts, she's crazy, you do it."

December 7:

For our last issue of the year, Iain McCletchie and "a few of the lads" sat down and compiled a top 10 list of the best sports related movies:

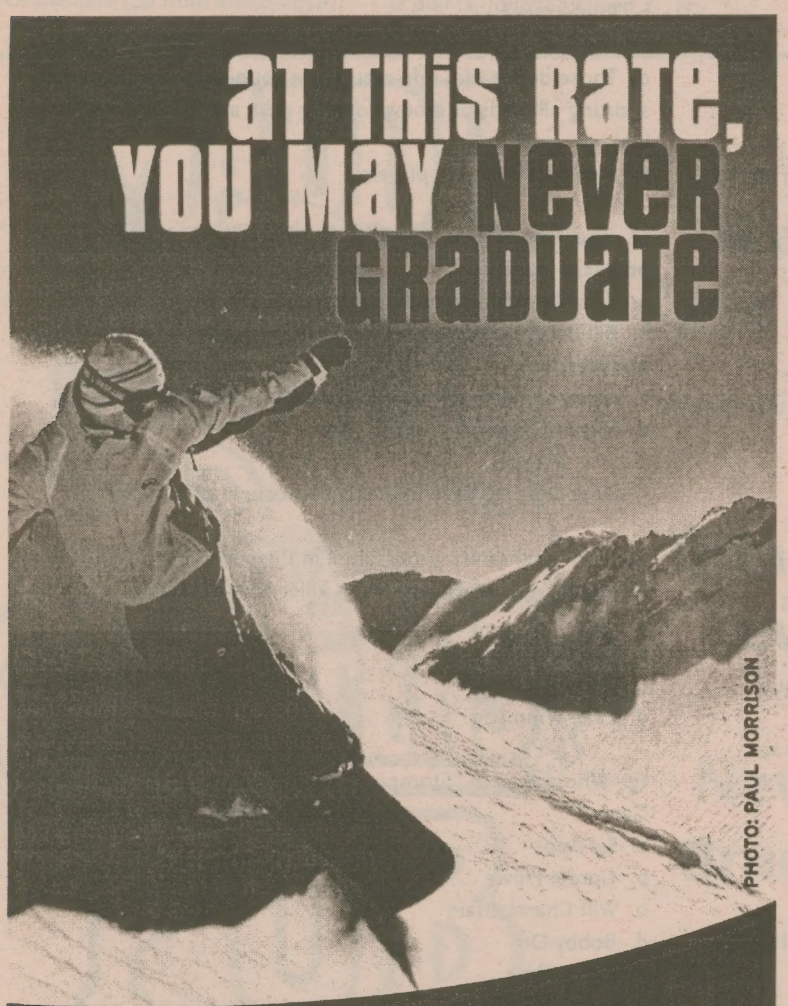
3. ***Caddyshack*** – Bill Murray in his breakout role as a wacked-out greenskeeper fighting fairway wrecking gophers. Possible the funniest sports movie made, culminating with Murray imagining himself playing in the Masters.

4. ***Slapshot*** – "Hey Hanrahan, your wife's a &*%#." If we'd thought as kids that minor league hockey was like this flick, you can bet we'd all be still chasing the dream. This film has the distinction of introducing the Hanson Brothers to the world."

"How about the worst sports movie ever made? Well, if we included any sequels, or films with animals, this list could go on forever...

"*Rudy* is a syrupy sweet movie about an undersized kid who goes to Notre Dame and makes the football team in spite of overwhelming odds. Sounds enticing? It's not. The final scene, where the whole stadium starts chanting his name, was pathetic."

–compiled by *Martlet* sports staff



Sports Trivia 101 results:

Score: 15: You, my friend, are a dirty cheater.
12-14: Contact Sports Editor Jeremy Shragge to take advantage of this course offering.
6-11: You have a tenuous grasp on the sporting world.
2-5: Enjoy Microbiology 327.
0 or 1: Hey, it was a lame quiz anyways.

Answers:
1. Anything but (d), please.
2. Obviously (d). West is best in the NBA.
3. (c), but God's still staying mum.
4. (d), tits aren't very important to a boar, you know.
5. (d). It's the BEST answer, remember.
6. (d). You'd answer the same if you played in goal.
7. If you got this wrong, I'll cry.
8. (c). The Grim Reaper rocks.
9. (b). If only his post-NCAA career was as brilliant as his name.
10. Please tell me you picked (d).
11. (b)
12. You can't go wrong with (d) or (e).
13. (b) A fantastic song.
14. (c) "Out with his girl near Lake MacLean, hit a truck doing 70 in the wrong lane to the Big League."
15. (d) "Someone roars, Bobby scores, at the good old hockey game."

ON CAMPUS

What's going on with Y to Y? Come find out on **Jan. 25,** 7 p.m. Cornett A229, at a slide show and public meeting on the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, featuring Harvey Locke, director of CPAWS Canada. Presented by the Dept. of Geography and SOGS.

Livespace – Thirdspace goes off the page on **Feb. 1, 2001** for its first annual reading. Music, poetry, fiction and non-fiction readings from Womyn's Publication Netwerk members and readers. The Drip Café at 8 p.m. Tickets are $3 in advance and $5 at the door. Tickets available at the Women's Centre, SUB B107. Sign up for the open mike – email ldelbian@uvic.ca – space is limited!

Martlet.org needs web volunteers! Volunteers needed to help put up website – no prior experience needed. Claim computer/web experience on your resume! Weekly tutorials on Fridays in SUB Bo11.

"Ring-Out" the week with Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship every Friday night! Everyone is welcome to join us for Praise, Worship, Singing, Prayer, Fellowship and Teaching! Have a Bible? Bring it! See you Friday nights for Ring-Out in Cle C 112 at 7:30 p.m.

OFF CAMPUS

Café Philosophy: Taking public philosophy to a new level. Next topic Ritual: How much ritual occupies your life? What is the use of ritual? Do we benefit from ritual or does it impede us? **Wed. Jan. 24** at 7:30 p.m. De Torrefazione Italia (1234 Government St.), Cover $4/$3 for students. **"Food for Thought"** pre-session starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information call Michael Picard, Ph.D., at 385-4646 or e-mail pyro@philosophy-shop.com

VOLUNTEERS

Attention students in Education, Biology, Geography, and Environmental Studies – gain valuable career experience through volunteering at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. Volunteer positions include nature interpretation with school children, trail building and nature house receptionist. For more details on these or other opportunities, contact Joan at 479-0211 or email jcowley@swanlake.bc.ca

Use your new year's resolution to help someone enhance their quality of life! Many people with disabilities are motivated to participate in new activities but are in need of assistance! Recreation Integration Victoria is looking for volunteers to provide one-on-one assistance for people with disabilities in a recreational setting. To get involved or for more information, please call Mark at 477-6314.

TUTORS

English/Philosophy. Essay critique, proofreading, assignment discussion, etc. Enjoy learning but need a little assistance to fulfill your potential? I can help. Call Janet at 595-8438.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre is currently accepting applications for their crisis line volunteer training. Women interested in supporting survivors of sexual violence, call 383-5545 to sign up for an information meeting on **Jan. 24 or 31** at 6 p.m.

Art classes that everyone can afford! Artistic Tuesdays let you tap into your creative spirit. Sponsored by the City of Victoria, Community Development Division. Tuesdays Jan. 23 to Feb 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. $0-$30/6 classes (sliding scale). Downtown Community Centre, 755 Pandora Ave. Call 383-0076.
Pottery Classes available. Six 2.5 hour classes, $140 + GST. Call 383-5446 for more details.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Wanted: quiet, bright, cat-hair free bachelor suite. Prefer Fernwood, Rockland, Jubilee or Cook St. Village. Can move anytime from now to end of Feb. Excellent refs. Gary 595-6728.

FOR SALE

Ink cartridges refilled from $4.95 to $14.95. Mayfair Mall (by Toys-R-Us). Island Ink-Jet, 381-9583.

For sale: 15" colour computer monitor. Still under warranty. $80 o.b.o. Call 721-3318.

HELP WANTED

Summer camp counselors on campus interviews for premier camps in Massachusetts. Positions available for talented, energetic and fun-loving students as counselors in all team sports including Roller Hockey and Lacrosse, all individual sports such as tennis and golf, waterfront and pool activities and specialty activities including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newspaper, rocketry and radio. Great salaries, room, board, travel and US summer work visa. June 16 to Aug. 15. Enjoy a great summer that promises to be unforgettable. For more info and to apply: MAH-KEE-NAC (boys) www.campmkn.com, 1-800-753-9118; DANBEE (girls) www.danbee.com, 1-800-392-3752. Interviewer will be on campus **Monday, Mar. 5** – 10 a.m.to 4 p.m. in the SUB, Michéle Pujol Room.

Travel – teach English. 5 day/40 hr **(May 16-20)** TESOL teacher cert. course (or by correspondence). 1,000s of jobs available NOW. Free info pack, toll free 1-888-270-2941.

Attention: college students. Large national company recruiting college students for summer work. Exceptional earnings opportunity, plus bonuses. Car required. Fax résumé 391-4636.

HEY YOU

Eris believes waitlists are bull.

Satan: make your own mistakes, apocalyptically and paradigmatically, of course.

Happy b-day to you, robyn mogan

I saw you. Just the other day on the way to school. You looked lost.

BILLBOARD RATES

students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines
hey you!	$1/issue

All advertisments on the billboards page must adhere to the following statement:
"Everyone is welcome. We oppose discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, class, age and ability."

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FACING UP TO MY DEATH
I LIVE AGAIN
BY Nick O'Teen
WWW.BENTCOMICS.COM
PEOPLE OFTEN ASK ME "WHY DO YOU DRAW THESE AUTO-BIOGRAPHICAL COMICS? WHY THIS NEED TO SHARE INTIM-ATE DETAILS OF YOUR LIFE WITH TOTAL STRANGERS".
ACTUALLY, THEY DON'T ASK ME THIS, BUT LETS PRETEND...
WELL, I ATTRIBUTE MY OBSES-SIVE RECORDING OF THE MUNDANITIES OF MY LIFE TO A HIGHLY DEVELOPED SENSE OF MY OWN MORTALITY.
R.I.P. NICK O' TEEN
WHILE OTHERS SEEM TO LIVE LIFE AS THOUGH IT WERE INFINITE LIMITLESS AND AMARANTHINE, I HAVE BEEN PAINFULLY AWARE OF THE FINITE NATURE OF HUMAN EXISTENCE.
ME AGED SIX.
IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE DEATH HOLDS ME IN HER CLAMMY EMBRACE.
THROUGHOUT HISTORY, OTHERS HAVE TRIED TO INSURE THEIR IMMORTALITY BY VARIOUS MEANS. SOME BY PRESERVATION...
ZZZZZ
OTHERS BY DISPLAYS OF CONQUERING VIRILITY...
I WILL CONQUER EUROPE TO COMPEN-SATE FOR MAH TINY, TEENSY PENIS.
OR BY ERECTING HUGE MONUMENTS TO THEMSELVES...
HEY HONEY!! COME AND SEE THESE VAST AND TRUNKLESS LEGS OF STONE!
BUT WHAT OF WE "ORDINARY" PEOPLE. HOW DO WE ENSURE OUR IMMORTALITY?
WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS CHILDREN!
FORGET THAT ROMEO.
GEORGE ORWELL SUGGESTS THAT THERE ARE FOUR GREAT MOTIVES FOR MAKING ART...
SHEER EGOTISM AESTHETIC ENTHUSIASM HISTORICAL IMPULSE POLITICAL PURPOSE.
IN MY CASE WE CAN JETTISON AESTHETIC ENTHUSIASM IMMEDIATELY.
SWAGGERING MACHO ALCOHOLIC AND HIS SELF-INDULGENT MODERNIST CRAP!
AND, THOUGH MY WORK IS OFTEN INFORMED BY MY ANARCHIST CONVICTIONS. IT IS NOT THE CENTRAL REASON I MAKE ART.
DEATH TO THE BOOSHWAH PIGS!!
NO. I'D HAVE TO SAY SHEER EGOTISM IS THE ACTUAL REASON I PRODUCE COMICS. A PATHETIC NEED FOR THE LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE OF STRANGERS.
I LOVE YOUR WORK NICK!
THANKS RON JEREMY!
MAYBE IT STEMS FROM A WISH TO STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD, TO DIFFERENTIATE MYSELF...
I'M UNIQUE!!
OR THE DESIRE TO SEEM CLEVER, TO GET MY OWN BACK ON ADULTS WHO SNUBBED ME IN CHILDHOOD, GIRLS WHO REJECT-ED ME IN ADOLESCENCE.
THEY'LL ALL PAY.. OH YES!
ULTIMATELY THOUGH, IT IS THE NEED TO BE REMEMBERED AFTER DEATH. TO LEAVE SOME MARK, A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS...
ACCORDING TO THIS ANTIQUE "PICTURE BOOK" PEOPLE IN THE 20TH CENTURY MASTURBATED CONSTANTLY...
SO THAT SOME PART OF ME LIVES ON, A TESTIMONIAL TO MY CONSCIOUSNESS. THUS I TRANSCEND THE MATERIAL PLANE, AND ENSURE MY IMMORTALITY...
NICK O'TEEN LIVES

A hearty greeting and "how goes it, chum?" to all of you joining or returning to CLUB UVIC - for this spring semester two thousand and one.

And for the purpose of easy integration into the system, we proudly present...

THE Quintessential Uvic Student

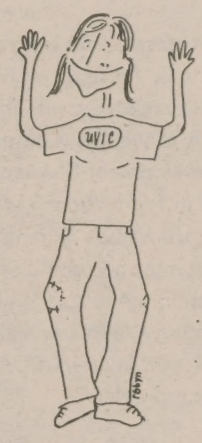
~ a wee list of items critical for ~~assimilation~~ success on this fair campus

1. The MEC polo coat

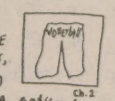
Ch.1

Much like the bell-bottoms of the 1970s, and the ever-popular 80's sweatband, the MEC coat is a quintessential period piece

- ensures high visibility when traversing the Uvic "Ring Road"
- sheds all of the elements (and maintains the delicately crafted "hair-do") as students scramble from the Ian Stewart gym to the residences .... and back again
- like a badge of honour, it declares that the given student has survived an extended period of residence on British Columbia's ~~Wet~~ West Coast
- looks groovy



2. The "sweatpants-with-highschool-athletic-activity-printed-across-the-bum"


Ch.2

A fine piece of memorabilia for those secondary school years, the sweatpant is also an excellent clothing option for the "I have 5 mid-terms today" day.

- advertizes (former) athletic involvement and ability ("in fact, you might mention to the curious poker-by, "I played defense for the underwater hockey team.")
- ensures that current lethargic state is but a faze
- maintains warm cheeks in the chilly months.

3. The Facial Piercing

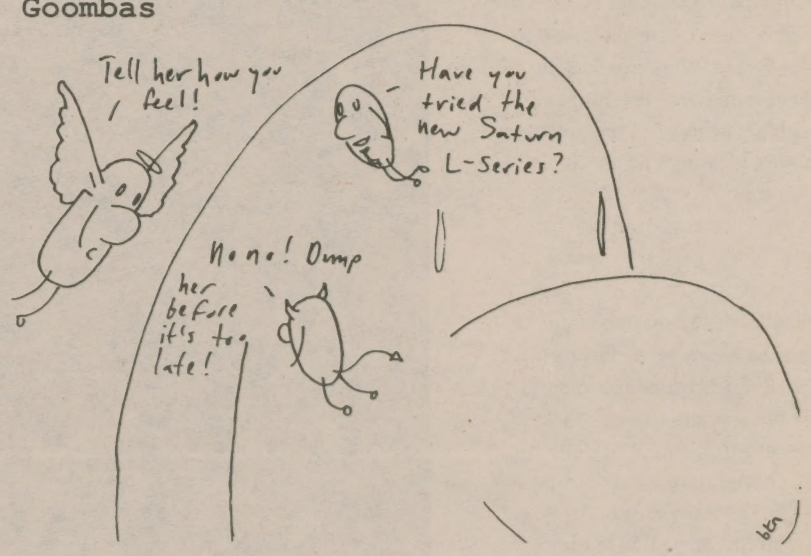
Ch.3

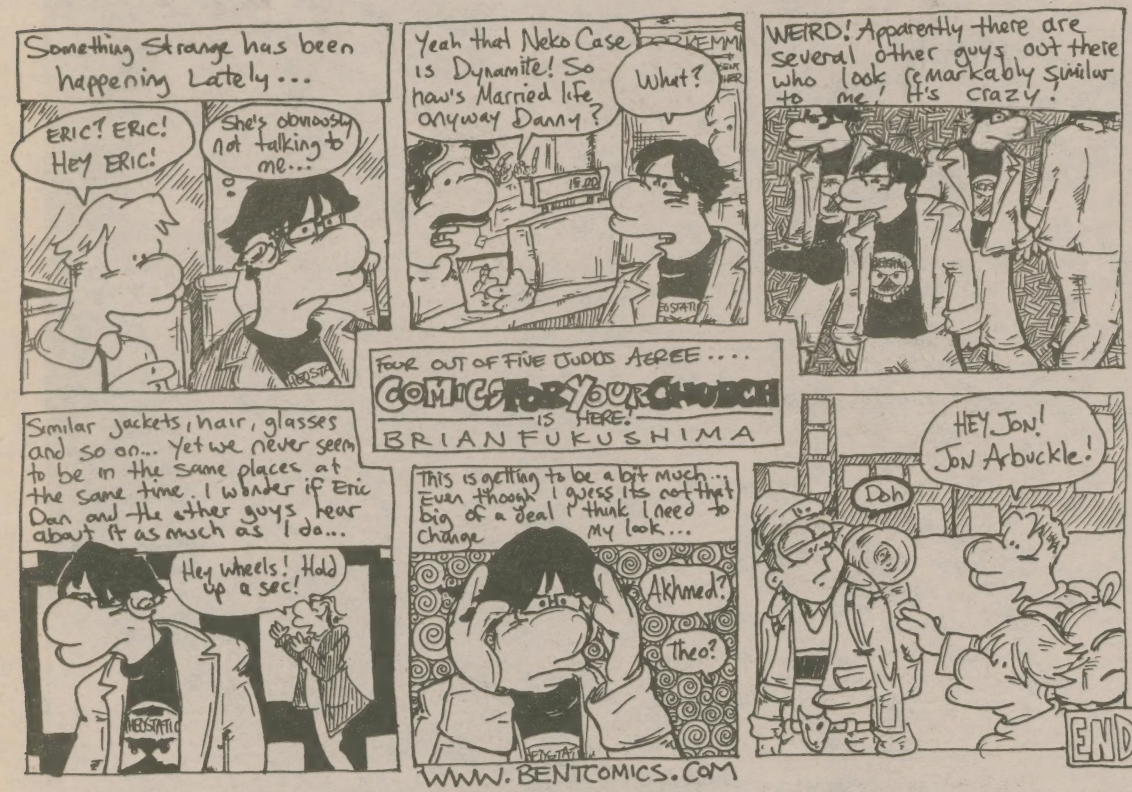
In what was once considered an act of rebellion and means of distinction, the facial piercing is now an academic necessity, a crucial right of passage

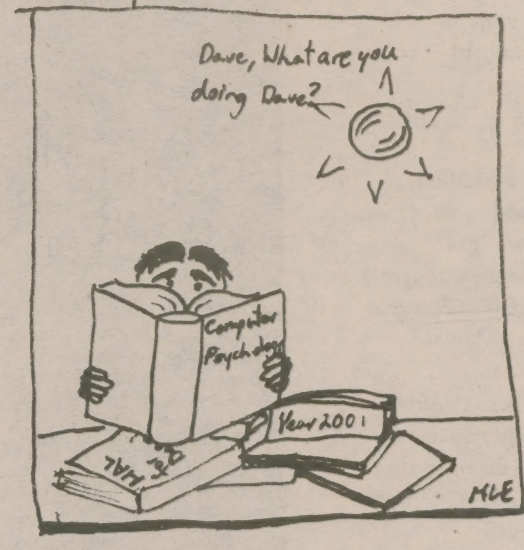
- conducive to positive first impression in the artsy-fartsy circles
- creates the eccentric, "spent-last-semester-volunteering-with-a-turtle-preservation-project-on-an-organic-co-op-farm-in-Uruguay" look

A WARNING: parental reaction is unpredictable. Severe reactions may include mothers piercing their own faces in an attempt to create a mother-daughter bond.

Goombas




Something Strange has been happening Lately...
ERIC? ERIC! Hey ERIC!
She's obviously not talking to me...
Yeah that Neko Case is Dynamite! So how's Married life anyway Danny?
What?
WEIRD! Apparently there are several other guys out there who look remarkably similar to me, It's crazy.
FOUR OUT OF FIVE JUDGES AGREE.... COMICS FOR YOUR CHURCH IS HERE! BRIAN FUKUSHIMA
Similar jackets, hair, glasses and so on... Yet we never seem to be in the same places at the same time. I wonder if Eric Dan and the other guys hear about it as much as I do...
Hey wheels! Hold up a sec!
This is getting to be a bit much... Even though I guess its not that big of a deal I think I need to change my look...
Ahmed?
Theo?
HEY, JON! JON Arbuckle!
Doh
END
WWW.BENTCOMICS.COM



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